

Appeal of 7 top cops for reconsideration denied

STORY
ON
PAGE A2

SC rules Ani can file graft raps vs Laurel

By Michael Lim Ubac

IN what it said was a "final denial," the Supreme Court yesterday upheld the authority of the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate and subsequently prosecute former Vice President Salvador Laurel in connection with the 1998

SC/A4



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By G. Lacuarta

JINGGOY Estrada's appetites may be legendary and the receipt may show that P6,500 worth

P6,500/A15



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Deficit worries, Guingona case drag stocks to 6-month low

By Doris C. Dumlaog

STOCK prices yesterday plunged 4 percent to their lowest in over six months on concerns that interest rates might rise after the five-month budget deficit reached about 83 percent of the full-year target and on uncertainties caused by the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. from the Cabinet.

"The budget deficit is one more negative factor pulling down the market. A lot of negative external factors are there for the past days, and the budget deficit is (more) bad news for investors," Enrique Santa Ana of DBS Vickers Securities Inc. said.

"It's because of the budget deficit. It's most likely that we may overshoot the budget deficit target this year. That is sending the wrong signal to the stock market. Eventually, our interest rates may go up," Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities Inc., said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index plunged 48.56 points to close at 1,141.55, its lowest level since Dec. 13, when the index settled at 1,107.73.

Turnover reached 431.58 million shares worth P1.22 billion from Tuesday's 226.31 million shares valued at

DEFICIT/A4

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ... But I keep my economic policy correct ... my focus on my duties is not distracted by political considerations.



'I make political mistakes left and right'

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

IN A RARE admission of weakness, President Macapagal-Arroyo, dubbed the "Iron Lady of Asia," said yesterday that she committed "political mistakes left and right" in her 17 months in office.

She did not say what they were, though.

Her candor earned her warm applause from businessmen attending the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility in Makati.

"As your President, I may make mistakes, although most of my mistakes are political, not economics," Ms. Macapagal said to a round of laughter from the audience.

She continued, "The fact is that I make political mistakes left and right but I keep my economic policy correct. I wish you would recognize therefore that my focus on my duty as President is not distracted by political considerations."

Last week, the administration Lakas party was thrown into disarray after Malacañang preempted Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.'s resignation as foreign secretary.

Malacañang's shabby treatment of Guingona, president of Lakas, has demoralized most members of the ruling party.

To make matters worse, Ms. Macapagal has offered Guingona's post to opposition Sen. Blas Ople in an attempt to break the deadlock in the Senate.

The President appealed to businessmen to see her good side despite her mistakes.

"I wish you would recognize that I am a President who keeps my word," she said, pointing out that she met the tar-

I MAKE/A4

Gov't broke: No extra bonuses, no vacancy

By Clarissa S. Batino

NO ADDITIONAL bonus to government employees, freeze hiring, massive cut-back on government spending.

These are measures the Department of Budget is adopting because of the widening budget deficit, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin yesterday said.

"The government employees should not expect anything more than their basic salary and the mandated bonuses like 13th month pay," she said.

The DBM granted "monetary incentives" amounting to as much as P10,000 to every government employee in 2001.

"Last year, some of our savings were given to employees as incentive. This year, there will be none of that," Boncodin told reporters at a press conference.

The government has also stopped hiring additional employees, according to the budget secretary. There are about 1.5 million government workers.

Boncodin said the government was in for tough times because the budget deficit rose to P107.54 billion during the first five months of the year. (See story on B1)

The deficit is 84 percent bigger than the five-month deficit in 2001 and already accounts for 83 percent of the P130-billion budget deficit target for the whole of 2002.

The huge fiscal gap from January to

GOVT/A4

GMA's lieutenants go to US to woo Ople

'Don't give juicy post to opposition,' say Palace allies

By Juliet Javellana, Dona Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

ALL roads now lead to Los Angeles, California, as personalities identified with the President visit Sen. Blas Ople in an attempt to convince him to accept the foreign affairs portfolio vacated by Vice President Teofisto Guingona. The flurry of flights obscured President Macapagal-Arroyo's

own announcement yesterday, disclosing the formation of a three-person search committee to look for Guingona's replacement.

The President also said she will double as foreign secretary after Guingona leaves office on July 15, until a replacement is found for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Trusted Macapagal lieutenant Dante Ang is already in the United States to

offer the DFA post to Ople, while Rep. Willie Villarama—a former chief of staff of both Ms. Macapagal and Ople—is leaving today. Villarama denied he was going as the President's emissary, but confirmed Ang's mission and his meeting with Ople tomorrow.

Ople, a member of the opposition LDP who is on his last Senate term, is visiting family members in California. Villarama said he would help con-

vince Ople to accept the post. "I will advise him to accept the position. Given his background, he will be a great credit to the DFA," he said.

He said Ople was likely to accept the DFA appointment if a "happy settlement" in the Senate, where the administration and opposition are evenly split, would be assured.

"Knowing Ka Blas, he will not abandon

GMA'S/A4

Cimatu extension continues to draw fire

By Jerry Esplanada

(First of two parts)

THE COUNTRY'S highest-ranking military officer is celebrating his 56th birthday today by reporting for work—and some former supporters think that's not a good thing. They say Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu should retire instead, because the President's exten-

sion of his term is "a distortion of the promotion system."

"It isn't something people in the military would cheer about. Any term extension will not be welcome," retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Giday, chair and president of the 600-strong Association of Generals and Flag Officers, told the INQUIRER.

Agfo supported Cimatu's appointment as AFP chief last May, but opposed the extension of his term to Sept. 1.

Members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (formerly the Reform the Armed Forces Movement) also welcomed Cimatu's designation last May but now oppose the extension. One RAM officer described the practice of term extensions as "one martial law wound that time has been trying to heal."

An officer belonging to the Southern Command said he and his fellow soldiers were "happy for (Cimatu) and his

CIMATU/A15

Vicky Belo, doctors at odds over ads

By Armand N. Nocum and Leah Salterio

SHOULD a wrinkle here and there mar her flawless complexion, dermatologist-to-the-stars Dr. Vicky Belo can only blame the Philippine Medical Association (PMA).

A self-regulating body made up of about 30,000 doctors, the PMA has asked Belo to explain in 15 days the sustained media advertisements of herself to promote the Belo Medical Group which popularized liposuctions here and other beauty-enhancing procedures.

"It's so unfair. They're hitting me below the belt. I'm not even there to defend myself," said Belo who's now in Paris attending the world congress in liposuction.

Belo also said she's being tried by publicity with such "preposterous allegations."

Belo's finance director, who is with her in Paris, said that it had not received any letter from the PMA.

She's not had a single lawsuit in her 12-year career, she said. She has per-



See Medical 1



'ADVERTISEMENTS for herself.' ROMY HOMILLADA

formed surgery on some of the biggest names in show business including Rosanna Roces and Lorna Tolentino. Other celebrities who have sought her services are Boy Abunda, Kris Aquino, Paolo Bediones, Amy Perez, Vanessa del Bianco, Ruby Rodriguez and The Hunks of ABS-CBN—Diether Ocampo, Carlos Agassi, Piolo Pascual and Bernard Palanca.

VICKY/A9



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FOURTH OF JULY

A Boone to the Filipinos

By Roland G. Simbulan
Contributor

(Editor's note: The writer is a University of the Philippines professor, Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition chair and is author of the book "The Bases of Our Insecurity.")

WHENEVER Filipinos think of Americans as friends, what usually comes to mind are the images of GIs giving out chocolates to children or Peace Corps volunteers helping rural folk build their own water system. These days, the

American friend is also the pen pal that woos a Filipina or the US Embassy official that helps one get a visa.

But there is another kind of American friend Filipinos have. Many Filipinos who have visited Boston, Massachusetts—for a few months' sojourn as visiting fellows or students at Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Boston University—have met him.

He is Daniel Boone Schirmer.

If his name sounds familiar, especially to viewers who watched a certain television show

NO/A15

Second FRONT PAGE



Appeal of 7 'jueteng' cops rejected

By Leila Salaverria

THE NATIONAL Police Commission denied the motion for reconsideration filed by seven top police officials who were ordered relieved last week for failing to stamp out illegal gambling.

But the seven officers gained some small victory as the Napolcom also decided that there would be no further investigation into their professional conduct to determine their administrative or criminal culpability.

In the en banc decision handed down yesterday, the commissioners said "no evidence was found to show that they (the seven officials) are on the take."

It was signed by Interior Secretary and Napolcom Chair Jose Lina, Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza,

and Commissioners Edgar Dula Torres, Linda Malenab-Hornilla and outgoing Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza.

The commission cited the officers' show of "humility and honesty in their motions" in deciding not to go through with the impending pre-investigation.

It was "never our intention to cause them embarrassment or demoralization," the commissioners stated.

The seven who were ordered relieved last week were Deputy Direc-

tor General Edgar Aglipay of the National Capital Region Police Office, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya of the Central Luzon Police Office and Director Avelino Razon Jr. of the Central Visayas Police Office, Director Domingo A. Reyes of Southern Tagalog, Senior Supt. Leonilo de la Cruz of Laguna, Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion of Cebu and Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. of the Western Police District.

Lina said he would ask the incoming PNP chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, to submit to the Commission on Elections a list of names to be recommended to replace the seven.

Ebdane is replacing Mendoza who is to assume the transportation portfolio today.

Mendoza said yesterday that

the seven dismissed officials could be given new posts, but it was for the PNP's Senior Officers Placement and Promotions Board to determine where they would go.

As to criticisms that the seven were not given due process, the Napolcom decision said that since relief was a command prerogative and not a form of disciplinary action, there was no need for the body to conduct a prior investigation.

Thus, it concluded that the order was not in violation of due process.

Besides, the commissioners said, the dismissed officials had themselves acknowledged in a letter that they might not have fully observed the Napolcom's Memorandum Circulars 2002-004 and 2002-005, directing them to curb illegal gambling.

GenSan bomb suspect offers to turn state witness

A SELF-STYLED spokesperson for the Abu Sayyaf bandits accused of a deadly bombing attack on a mall in General Santos City has offered to turn state witness against his comrades, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Ustadz Noor Mohamad Umog, alias Abu Hamdi and Abu Muslim al-Ghazie, 34, has sought protection under the state witness protection program, Perez said.

Al-Ghazie has also offered to help in the arrest of other Abu Sayyaf bandits who allegedly helped carry out the April attack that killed 16 people and injured dozens of others in General Santos City, Perez added.

"All I can give him is physical protection. We cannot promise anything. At this point, we are not giving him any assurance of immunity. It is the courts that will determine the propriety of his discharge," Perez said, as he presented Al-Ghazie to the press.

Perez said Al-Ghazie had sought refuge under the witness protection program after he received several death threats "because of his extensive knowledge of the ASG members' conspiracy."

Al-Ghazie, who was arrested in Cotabato City on May 21, said he believed "the truth shall set me free" and stressed he did not "occupy a top post in the Abu Sayyaf group."

A former high school teacher, Al-Ghazie said he was



AL-GHAZIE: Truth will set me free.

only a "victim of circumstance." He did not elaborate. "Although I am not a top-caliber member of the group, I had personal knowledge of matters, which will be very valuable to the state. I believe I can help strengthen the government's position," he said.

The justice department has filed multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges against Al-Ghazie for the General Santos City bombing attacks.

He is also facing kidnapping with serious illegal detention for the abduction of several elementary pupils and teachers in Tumahubong, Basilan.

Perez said that his office would move to have the venue of Al-Ghazie's trial from General Santos to Manila for security reasons. **AFP and Michael Lim Ubac**

Ebdane takes over PNP today

THE PHILIPPINE National Police gets its 10th chief today when President Macapagal-Arroyo installs Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane in Camp Crame.

A former Constabulary officer who

earned his first and second stars during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, Ebdane takes over from Director General Leandro Mendoza, who has been appointed the new Department of Transportation and Com-

munications secretary.

Ebdane steps into a PNP wracked by the recent relief of seven senior officials due to "jueteng."

Before his assumption, Ebdane was PNP deputy chief for administration and

concurrent chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

According to a PNP statement, the President is expected to announce major policy pronouncements at the Camp Crame rites.

Ms Macapagal will also award Mendoza the Philippine Legion of Honor degree of commander, for "exemplary leadership in the PNP."

Mendoza's stint was marred by, among others, the unresolved Nida Blanca case, and the escape of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohomsar.

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4 Rangers die in clash in Bulacan

By Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas
PDI C. Luzon Desk

CAMP ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Four Scout Rangers were killed while four others were reported missing after an ambush on Wednesday morning by 30 suspected communist rebels in Paombong, Bulacan.

Lt. Gen. Alfredo Braganza, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, would not identify the slain soldiers until their immediate relatives had been notified.

He said two soldiers, identified as Pfc. Carmelo Fajaro, 26, and Pfc. Manuel Galuyat, 39, were wounded. They were taken to the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City.

The soldiers, belonging to the Army's 34th Riverine Command based at Barangay Hangga in Hagonoy town, were reportedly attacked by about 30 rebels at the boundary of the coastal villages of Sta. Cruz, Mascul and Binacod, in Paombong at 9:30 a.m.

The attackers, some of them armed with high-powered firearms, were believed to be members of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, according to SPO3 Teodoro Bertudes, operations chief of the Paombong police, who joined in the pursuit operations.

But the RHB denied participation in the ambush. A party source said the RHB pulled out from the area late last week after it encountered a New People's Army group there.

Open Letter to Pres. Arroyo & Sec. Lina

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
And
DILG Secretary Jose Lina

Dear Mrs. President & Sec. Lina,

Greetings! First of all, I would like you to know that my family does not know that I will come out with this open letter to you. But I decided to spend my own money to communicate my personal sentiments regarding the unexpected and unjust way regarding how the NAPOLCOM resolution that came out one week ago relieved my father Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay as Regional Director of NCR Police Office due to the supposed inability to curb illegal gambling in his area of responsibility. I mean no disrespect nor I have no malicious intentions for printing this letter, I just want to let the persons involved and the public know how I and my family feels after this unfortunate event happened.

My father has served this country for 35 years without any conditions. He has sacrificed a lot of his time with our family and even for himself. He works 18 hours a day and has served the country in whatever position assigned to him. I have witnessed his commitment in serving our nation during those years until the present time. Since he was a lieutenant, he has accomplished a lot. In the early 70's as a company commander in Isabela for the "MV Karagatan" incident he was awarded the *Gold Cross Medal* for preventing distribution of thousands of long rifles intended for the NPA. In the early 80's, he was awarded *Best Sector Commander in Metrocom* for three consecutive years. As Provincial Commander of Laguna for 3 years, he rejected a million peso bribe from a then known politician-jueteng lord. Furthermore, during the December 1989 Coup, he defended the government fighting on the ground against his misthans on the RAM side. In addition to this, he recaptured Sangley Point Air Base which prevented additional rebel planes from taking off. As Nueva Ecija Provincial Director, he was the only commander to pacify the then political war between Mayor Perez and the Josons. For this feat, we were given the PMA most outstanding cavalier award for 1991. As Regional Director of Central Luzon, he again did not accept multi million peso bribes from the biggest known jueteng lord in Central Luzon. Moreover, he was responsible for the security of the APEC Conference in Subic. And presently since he became NCRPO Director for the second time since November last year, kidnappings, drugs, bank robberies, and threats to the national government have been drastically reduced. These responsibilities are equally important with jueteng. From the above accomplishments, we can say that fighting jueteng was the cornerstone of my father's career. I can say that he is an exemplary officer and gentleman whose record can be compared with any senior officer in the PNP. An exemplary officer because he has not said no to any assignment no matter how difficult it may be. And a gentleman because he has respected and supported his superiors no matter what their decisions are.

Our family is still suffering from the way my father was relieved last week. My mom and my sisters are still greatly depressed and cannot normally go on with their lives. The common question that we ask ourselves regarding the persons involved is "After all that he has done for this country, why was our father taken for granted and just relieved in a humiliating way?". I know that my father would just retire quietly in 26 months time and even if he may not become the Chief of the Philippine National Police. The only thing we request is that our good name be spared and his record be dignified. Rest assured that my father still continues to be supportive of this government.

Respectfully,

(Sgd.) Michael Edgar Yan Aglipay

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RP-MALAYSIA EXERCISE

Malaysia's Lt. Gen. Dato Pahlawan Khairudin Bin Mat Yusof (left) and Philippine Army Col. Orlando Ambrocio (right) open a six-day joint military exercise on Wednesday in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. Malaysia hosted the training exercise, an annual event that started in 1998, in Sabah last year.

Vice mayor says Sabaya planned Indons' kidnap

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya planned the June 17 abduction of three Indonesians to divert military pursuit operations against his group in Zamboanga del Norte, according to a local official.

Vice Mayor Ahmad Omar of Luuk town said he received the information from other members of the Abu Sayyaf, which has been responsible for the spate of kidnappings in western Mindanao.

The military claimed Sabaya was killed in an encounter with government troops off Sibuco town in Zamboanga del Norte on June 21. His body has yet to be found.

Omar identified the leaders of the group that abducted the Indonesians as Malub, Hassan and Julmain, all of Luuk.

"We are looking into this report that Sabaya was allegedly involved in the (Indonesians') kidnapping because (according to) the information we received, we found that there were connections between Malub's group and Sabaya's group," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

Cimatu said he received reports that Malub and Sabaya, whose real name is Aldam Tilao, were both participants in a Moro National Liberation Front training course in the '70s in Sulu.

But Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, maintained that those involved in the kidnapping of the Indonesians were "lawless elements."

Malub and his men, Carolina said, have been branded as renegade MNLF forces.

Cimatu clarified earlier reports that the

military had abandoned plans to negotiate for the release of the hostages.

"The local leadership—the mayor, the governor—will have its own negotiation efforts parallel to our military effort," he said.

Cimatu said it was difficult to locate the hostages because "the people are not providing necessary information to the authority or that they (hostages and their captors) might not be in Luuk now."

Bambang Pangestoe, consul general of Indonesia, told the INQUIRER that he was putting all hopes on the military for the safe recovery of his countrymen—Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Jul Kipli and Pieter Lerrich.

Pangestoe arrived in Sulu yesterday morning to monitor development in the negotiation and rescue operations. He said he welcomed the negotiation but stressed that the Philippine government's no-ransom policy should be strictly followed.

"The three Indonesians are not rich, they are poor," he said.

Their families are very worried and have kept on calling his office to ask for developments, he added.

More than 700 families from five barangays in Luuk have already evacuated for fear of being caught in a crossfire between the abductors and government forces, Omar said.

Abdurahman Ramua, a seaweed farmer, said residents of Barangays Buhangin Mahaba, Kakatan, Bait-bait, Capulan and Niyangkaan have sought shelter in Barangay Lahing-Lahing.

Although the evacuation began on June 18, Ramua said food assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, consisting of 100 sacks of rice, arrived only on July 2.

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Troops, bandits clash in Patikul

JOLO, Sulu—Government troops clashed yesterday with Abu Sayyaf bandits on the island of Jolo after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to step up operations against the kidnap group, officials said.

The firefight erupted at noon, when Army troops caught up with an Abu Sayyaf unit led by senior bandit leader Radullan Sajiron in a village near the town of Patikul, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side, but reports from the field indicated the battle was still raging, he added.

Cimatu, along with Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, was in Jolo to check on the military campaign against the

al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf and a separate group holding hostage three Indonesian sailors seized last month.

He said local officials were negotiating with the Indonesians' kidnappers, who are believed to be a small group of bandits operating near the town of Luuk, where the sailors are reportedly being kept.

"The negotiation is ongoing parallel with the military operations," Cimatu said.

Carolina said President Macapagal on Tuesday gave him "marching orders" to round up the remaining leaders of the Abu Sayyaf after troops last month recovered their last US hostage and killed bandit leader Abu Sabaya.

"We are intensifying the operation," he told reporters. **AFP**

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'I make political mistakes left and right'

From page A1

gets she set in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) in July last year.

"When I say I will do something, I do it. And that is the simple meaning of credibility."

In its report, the Congressional Oversight Committee agreed with the President's assessment of her Sona targets. The President fulfilled 22 of the 35 commitments she made in her Sona, including the creation of one million jobs and the near elimination of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, according to the committee report.

Albay Rep. Jose Sarte Salceda, chair of the oversight committee, said there was substantial compliance by the executive branch with its commitments although it had shortcomings in addressing high power rates and drug prices, kidnappings, the garbage prob-

lem and land redistribution on ancestral domain.

Topping the President's accomplishments was her compliance with agriculture issues, particularly the creation of one million jobs in the sector.

For the first time, the government fully funded the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (P20 billion annually), according to Salceda.

He also noted that the Land Bank of the Philippines stepped up its agricultural lending and that two-thirds of the Department of Agriculture budget had been released as of May.

Salceda said these moves led to the creation of 671,000 new jobs in April 2002 after jobs fell 2.3 million in 2000 and 1.91 million in 2001.

Growth in agriculture

The measures led to a 6-per-

cent growth in agriculture in the fourth quarter last year and to a 4.62-percent growth in the first quarter this year, according to the chair of the oversight committee.

The near-elimination of the Abu Sayyaf threat was also among the major accomplishments of the Macapagal administration over the past 12 months.

Salceda said the sustained military operations against the Abu Sayyaf had diminished the ranks of the group from 1,200 members in 2000 to 800 in 2001.

After spending P1.33 billion for its campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in just four months last year, the government was able to reduce the expenditures to P7 million a week or P168 million so far this year due to American support under the Balikatan military exercises.

Another major achievement of

Malacañang is the electrification of many barangays, according to Salceda.

More hits

Despite having more hits than misses, Salceda said the President failed in politically sensitive issues that directly affect the masses.

Salceda said while Congress welcomed the 10-point agenda to lower power rates, "people are still paying higher power rates after the Sona."

He noted that no similar program was conceived for the prohibitive cost of medicine. "Cutting medicine prices by half in one year is unrealistic or unsustainable even if achieved," he said.

The report of the oversight committee noted that the administration crammed as it sought to fulfill its commitments to put up school buildings and houses and

to employ out of school youth.

Methodical style

Salceda noted the President's "methodical (almost mechanistic) approach" in meeting her Sona commitments.

"Her executive abilities and work ethic are well known but these are being constantly tested by structural constraints many of which were inherited. She cannot do it alone as her passion to meet targets in not streaming down to a stubborn bureaucracy," he said.

Overall, Salceda said the Sona was an "overreaction" of the administration to the siege of Malacañang by supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada in May 2001.

Salceda said the assault on Malacañang forced Ms Macapagal to take dramatic populist stance on almost all policy fronts.

Falling out

While trying to appease the poor, the President also took steps to mend fences with the business sector.

For the first time, the President acknowledged her falling out

with the business sector, which had helped pave the way for her assumption to the presidency.

"I hope that we'll be able to revive the bond that might have loosened lately by some failed expectations," she said at the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility.

"Instead of faulting me with some vague failure to inspire or to lead, I wish many of you will remember that I grew up together with many of you," she said.

She called some of those in the audience by their nicknames.

Her personality has remained unchanged since high school, according to Ms Macapagal.

"You have known that even then I was the President's daughter. I was not flamboyant, not charismatic, just a plodder and a hard worker," she said.

"I hope we can level expectations. Don't expect me to say electrifying things (when) the last thirty years I never did. But expect me to continue plodding and to continue producing good macroeconomic numbers," she said.

GMA's lieutenants go to US to woo Ople

From page A1

don his group in the Senate. He will not allow this offer to be used as an instrument to put down his group," Villarama said.

In his newspaper column yesterday, Ople said the administration had already sounded him off. His stance: "I shall be prepared to examine a presidential offer on its merits."

Working coalition

Villarama said Ople's acceptance of the DFA portfolio would be contingent on an agreement for a "working coalition in the Senate up to 2004."

He did not spell out the terms of such an agreement, but said it would include opposition senators heading major committees.

"But it doesn't mean (Sen. Edgardo) Angara's group will have it all," Villarama said.

He said a solution to the Senate impasse would have to be forged before Ople can formally accept any appointment. He said Ople's appointment to the DFA would be "great for the country" because it shows the President reaching out to the opposition.

But pro-administration mem-

bers of the House were divided over Ople's impending appointment.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri appealed to the President not to give the DFA to the opposition.

"I would appeal to the President not to give such a juicy plum to the opposition especially at the expense of the Vice President," Zubiri said.

Zubiri warned that appointing Ople might allow the President to solve the Senate impasse but at the expense of alienating her own coalition allies. He suggested that she consider her own allies for the sensitive position.

"Definitely many members of the party and the coalition will not be happy about this because this should be given to those who were with us in the fight (against deposed President Joseph Estrada)," he said.

A Lakas congressman, who asked not to be named, also opposed Ople's appointment. "How can we have a dynamic and vibrant foreign policy if we have an old and sickly secretary?" the congressman asked.

But Deputy Speaker Raul

Gonzalez and Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers were positive that Ople had already clinched it.

"My feeling is it's Ople," Gonzalez said, while Barbers added: "We welcome him with open arms."

Gonzalez said the purported dark horse, Ambassador Cesar Bautista, had "no political underpinnings."

"Ople has a higher stature than Bautista," he said.

Search committee

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal appointed three women to the "special search committee": Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and former Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena.

The committee's sole job is to screen nominees and recommend the next DFA secretary. Garchitorena, who resigned as PMS chief last November and was recently appointed a director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, will be the chair.

Acting Executive Secretary Avelino Cruz will head the committee secretariat, Ms Macapagal said.

But in a move certain to create confusion, the President maintained a parallel search committee from the private sector. "I have a strategic sector search committee, like in the past (former DFA Secretary Roberto) Bobby Romulo (headed the) search committee for foreign affairs."

"I think that's why the conflict occurred," she said in a chance interview in Makati City yesterday, referring to the rift between Romulo and Guingona.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, who replaced Garchitorena as PMS Chief, said it was the first time a search committee was formed outside the PMS. He begged off from joining the selection team, having taken the blame for the premature announcement of Guingona's resignation a week ago.

In the Senate, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara cautioned Ms Macapagal against taking over the DFA post, even in a temporary capacity. "The foreign affairs job will bring an additional burden to an already over-extended presidency," Angara said. **With a report from Cynthia Balana**

SC rules Ani can file graft raps vs Laurel

From page A1

Centennial Exposition project in Pampanga.

The tribunal's Special First Division issued a six-page resolution rejecting Laurel's motion for reconsideration as well as his plea to allow the full court to hear his defense, saying the issues he had raised were "mere reiterations of his earlier arguments."

"The court . . . remains unwavering thereby. This denial is final," it said in the resolution that paves the way for Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to initiate criminal proceedings with the Sandiganbayan.

The Supreme Court reiterated its April 12 ruling that the National Centennial Commission (NCC), which Laurel had chaired, was a public office that the Ombudsman was authorized to investigate.

Laurel had declared innocence and questioned the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to investigate him. He pointed out that he was no longer a government official when he took over the NCC.

Laurel is the highest official to be indicted in connection with the so-called "Expo scam." Earlier, Desierto charged several officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and Clark Development Authority for the supposedly anomalous construction of the Mabalacat-Clark road, which was part of the Expo project.

As to the liability of then President Fidel V. Ramos, Desierto said the Ombudsman could not rule on the matter pending the Commission on Audit's submission of a complete report on the project.

Freedom Ring

Last April 12, the tribunal ruled that Desierto was vested with power and authority to charge Laurel for the alleged bloating of the cost of the Expo's Freedom Ring from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

That ruling also lifted the preliminary investigation issued by the tribunal on Sept. 24 last year.

In reaction, Laurel issued a statement saying "the legal fight

is far from over."

He said he had not been found guilty by the high court and was, "therefore, preparing to elevate the matter to the Supreme Court en banc."

The tribunal had said it was "not the proper forum" to decide on the other legal issues raised by Laurel, "lest we preempt the trial court from resolving them."

It did not give credence to Laurel's assertion that the NCC was not a public office.

It pointed out that the NCC had performed executive functions, and that then President Ramos had created NCC by executive order.

"Clearly, the NCC performs sovereign functions," the tribunal said. "It is, therefore, a public office, and petitioner, as its chair, is a public officer."

But the high court declined to discuss other legal issues such as those related to the Philippine Centennial Exposition '98 Corp. (Exporcorp), of which Laurel was chief executive officer, and whether he received compensation as NCC chair.

"Granting that petitioner did not receive any salary . . . would such bear any significance?" the tribunal said.

3 justices

Laurel had said he "felt very strongly" that the three members of the tribunal's First Division—Associate Justices Santiago Kapunan, Reynato Puno and Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago—"erred in their decision."

"If the NCC was a 'public office,' why did the (tribunal) itself name two of its members to the NCC?" he said. "In so doing, did not the (tribunal) point the accusing finger at itself because the Constitution prohibits the court from designating any member to any other government agency?"

He said that if he—who was no longer a public official when he assumed the NCC in 1993—indeed became "a public officer, was I the only member of the centennial commission that became a 'public officer?'"

"What about the rest of the more than 40 other NCC commissioners who represented the private sector . . . did they also become public officers?" he said.

Laurel said that following the same argument, the Senate President and the Speaker of House of Representatives also violated the constitutional prohibition against members of Congress holding any government office because they had designated senators and congressmen to represent Congress in the NCC.

But in the resolution written by Kapunan on July 1 and promulgated yesterday, the tribunal said Laurel's arguments were "irrelevant."

"The issue in this case is whether petitioner, as chair of the NCC, is a public officer under the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman," it said.

"Assuming, as petitioner proposes, that the designation of other members of the NCC runs counter to the Constitution, it does not make petitioner, as NCC chair, less a public officer," it added. "Such 'serious constitutional repercussions' do not reduce the force of the rationale behind this court's decision."

Stretch

The high court said Laurel's contention that the NCC was a private corporation "is a bit of a stretch."

It said that in designating two of its incumbent members to the NCC, it did not render "a decision."

"Much less did the court, by such designation, articulate any 'doctrine or principle of law,'" it said.

On Dec. 4, 2000, Desierto announced the filing of graft charges against Laurel with the Sandiganbayan for allegedly bloating the Freedom Ring budget more than fivefold.

Desierto said Laurel also allegedly gave unwarranted advantage to a private party when he awarded the Freedom Ring project to the Asia Construction Development Authority (AK).

Laurel filed a petition to block the Ombudsman's investigation. Subsequently, Desierto deferred the actual filing of the complaint

in deference to the Supreme Court.

On Sept. 24, 2001, the tribunal's First Division temporarily restrained Desierto from initiating criminal charges against Laurel.

In his 17-page resolution dated Dec. 4, 2000, Desierto cited the finding of the Ombudsman Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau (EPIB) that Laurel awarded the Freedom Ring project to the AK "without the benefit of a competitive public bidding."

Desierto said the EPIB also found that:

- "The notice to proceed was prematurely issued in December 1996 when the contract was only signed on April 4, 1997."

- Laurel ordered the release of a 50-percent down payment to the AK, when the Commission on Audit allowed only a 15-percent down payment.

Expocorp

Desierto said Expocorp was organized on April 16, 1996, initially as a government-owned joint venture corporation to oversee and implement the Expo project of the centennial celebration.

Of the original P1.9-billion budget for the Expo project, about P248 million was allocated to the Freedom Ring construction to house a 35,000-seat amphitheater and a performance stage covered with a fabric roof.

Expocorp invited selected contractors to pre-qualify for the design and construction of the Freedom Ring. During its board meeting on Dec. 19, 1996, representatives of the pre-qualified proponents made a 15-minute presentation of their proposals.

Desierto said that "immediately thereafter," Laurel, "with the concurrence of the board, awarded the contract to the AK without the benefit of a technical evaluation."

In a series of decisions from Nov. 5 to Dec. 6, 1996, Laurel allegedly made changes in the original plan and increased the budget from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

Records show that the changes involved the expansion of the original scope of the tent or fabric roof from an area of 2.8 hectares to cover the entire Freedom Ring.

From page A1

P295.67 million.

The volume included cross-sales amounting to about P760 million worth of shares in Centro Escolar University. Newspaper publisher Emilio Yap reportedly acquired a 27-percent stake in one of the country's leading dental schools.

Selling was broad-based, with only six issues gaining against 65 losers and 29 unchanged issues. Traders said major foreign houses were mostly on the sell side.

The market, which in the first quarter was one of the region's best performers, has fallen 2.27 percent so far this year.

Ong said the market's major support was at 1,135 points.

Political distraction

Oliver Plana of Asiasec Equities Inc. said there were also concerns that the infighting within the ruling political party were distracting President Macapagal-Arroyo from pushing her economic agenda.

Guingona, president of the ruling party, was eased out as foreign secretary over differences with Ms Macapagal regarding policies.

The government earlier yesterday said the budget deficit ballooned to P107.5 billion in the five months to May, exceeding by a huge margin the first half target of P78.26 million. **(See story on page B1.)**

Traders said the news could put pressure on interest rates.

Officials maintained the situation would be retrieved before the end of the year by improved tax collections, and that the government was maintaining its P130-billion full-year deficit target.

Analysts were unconvinced. "Based on current numbers and tax collection levels, there is no way in hell," said Song Seng Wun, a regional economist at GK Goh Securities in Singapore.

"At best, the budget deficit (at the end of the year) would be near last year's level, if not above."

Gov't broke: No extra bonuses, no vacancy

From page A1

May was attributed to heavy spending and poor revenue collection.

Boncodin said that big spending cuts could help arrest the widening budget deficit.

Withheld funds

She said the government could reduce spending by as much as P83.5 billion in the remaining months. The amount represents 25 percent of the budget that the DBM has withheld from government agencies.

During the second half, the government will review the budget of various agencies and ask them to cut down on costs of operations, including travel and training.

"In previous years, we gave the agencies their budget and just hoped that they would spend prudently. Now, we decided to with-

hold 25 percent of their budgets and to review their spending needs in the coming months," Boncodin said.

Boncodin said a big part of the P83.5 billion in withheld funds were allocated for projects that may be postponed.

But she said infrastructure projects necessary to achieve economic growth would not be canceled.

"We will rationalize spending from July to August but we will not sacrifice projects important to economic growth. We will ask agencies to cut down on travel, training and other operating expenses," the budget secretary said.

The DBM and the National Economic and Development Authority will review state-funded projects to determine whether some items could be deferred or canceled.

Malaysia spy planes to track Pinoy refugees

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will deploy three newly acquired spy planes to monitor an increasing flood of Filipino refugees illegally entering its eastern Sabah state, the New Straits Times newspaper reported yesterday.

Defense Minister Najib Tun Razak said the number of Filipinos fleeing to Malaysia had increased in the past two weeks following a stepped-up offensive by US-backed Philippine troops against the Abu Sayyaf.

But he said that based on intelligence reports, none of the refugees detained had any links to the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

About 150 refugees have been detained as of last week, he said.

The three Eagle-UAV aircraft, worth \$12 million, would also look for any fleeing Abu Sayyaf bandits trying to seek shelter in Sabah following the killing of one of its key leaders off Zamboanga del Norte last month.

Malaysia deployed military forces along Sabah's island-dotted coastline two years ago after the Abu Sayyaf, linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network, raided two resorts and kidnapped foreign and Malaysian tourists who were later released after huge ransoms were paid.

"We have been monitoring the situation because it is not far from our waters," Najib said.

Up to a thousand US troops are

in Mindanao providing technical support to Philippine troops in the hunt for Abu Sayyaf members.

Last week, the Philippine military launched a major offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

Sabah, which has been raided by Abu Sayyaf in the past for kidnap victims, shelters thousands of illegal immigrants who have fled decades of conflict between Muslim separatist rebels and Philippine troops.

One of Southeast Asia's wealthiest nations, Malaysia has about two million foreign workers, including an estimated 600,000 illegal immigrants, employed in factories, plantations and construction sites. Its population numbers around 23 million.

Najib said there was no need to deploy extra soldiers in the state, although the navy and air force had been instructed to increase patrols in the sea.

A marine police spokesperson said yesterday Malaysian forces had been placed on alert along the coast of Sabah in response to an expected surge in Filipino illegal immigrants.

"We have increased patrols in coastal waters especially around illegal entry points," he told AFP.

Najib said that the newly seized illegals had been handed over to the police and that the had no plans to send reinforcements to the area, though aerial and naval patrols have been increased. **Reports by Reuters, AFP and AP**



PARK MUST GIVE WAY TO RUNWAY

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered a portion of Nayong Pilipino be bulldozed to make way for the ongoing expansion of the third passenger terminal of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. An 8.6-hectare portion of the park would be redeveloped, a Palace statement said. The park got in the way of a required parallel taxiway and road surface connection between the new terminal and an existing one.

Canada warns RP on caregivers

CANADA has warned the Philippines on the rising number of fly-by-night training centers for caregivers who want to work in Canada, officials said yesterday.

The Canadian Embassy has fired off a letter to Manila complaining that the graduates of the unauthorized centers lacked the proper training and knowledge for their work as nurses or in hospices, said Lourdes Reyes, administration director for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

It asked the government to put a stop to the apparent proliferation of the unauthorized training centers.

"We do not know the exact number of these fly-by-night centers. But we are hoping to co-

ordinate with the police. These people are giving Filipinos a bad name," Reyes said.

She said Tesda was looking into the so-called fly-by-night schools and was hoping to pin these down. Tesda is also coordinating with the registered centers to identify the fake ones, she added.

"The registered operators are more than willing to assist us in our campaign against fly-by-night training centers. They know which ones are illegal and they will help us go after those," Reyes said.

The Philippines has emerged as a major source of care workers for hospitals, hospices and old-age homes in developed countries. Numerous schools have sprung up here as a result.

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Liban sets goal: 21,000 ARBs signed

By B.S. Rivera

FORMER Quezon City Rep. Dante Liban has embarked on a literally back-breaking chore as the new head of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Liban, who was transferred to Tesda only two weeks ago, vowed to finish signing 21,000 artist record books (ARBs) as a "gift" to President Macapagal-Arroyo in time for her State of the Nation address on July 24.

An ARB proves that an entertainer is qualified for employment abroad as a singer, dancer or band member. It is obtained after passing a series of qualifying tests conducted by Tesda.

The ARBs used to be processed at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Former Tesda Director General Lucita Lazo said ARBs had been a source of corruption among testing officers and industry players.

She said she had been told that some entertainers who did not pass the tests still managed to get their ARBs signed, by paying P50,000.

The Department of Labor and Employment transferred the ARB signing authority to Tesda early this year, under Department Order No. 10.

The order also required the release of ARBs on the same day that entertainers applied for them, and accredited only nine out of 45 training centers nationwide.

Various artists' groups and training centers protested the new rules, resulting in a legal battle between Tesda and the disenfranchised groups.

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Back to the diplomats

THE RESIGNATION of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary opens the way either for the further political degradation of the foreign office or for giving its control back to professional diplomats.

A number of names have been mentioned to replace Guingona, some of them veterans in the diplomatic service and others politicians. But President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is said to have offered the premier Cabinet post to opposition Sen. Blas Ople, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, apparently to break the impasse in the Senate.

Ople is hedging. He has said he likes the job but added that he will accept the offer only if it is delinked from ethical issues (read as a bribe to persuade him to switch to the side of pro-administration senators) and from the Senate stand-off. With that condition, Ople in the Cabinet does not serve the President's purpose. A deal can't be cut. Ople does not only want it both ways. He wants the job delivered to him on a silver platter.

To begin with, the offer to Ople has been as badly mishandled as the premature release of Guingona's resignation letter. The offer shows the President is using the Department of Foreign Affairs as a bargaining chip to achieve a partisan and parochial objective—breaking the impasse in the Senate—thereby demeaning the post. If the President could not live with a foreign secretary who had sharp policy disagreements with her, there's no reason to believe that Ople will be more malleable to her policy preferences.

Ople in foreign affairs represents the surrender of the DFA to the opposition. Given that the President is the architect of foreign policy, its implementation should be entrusted to someone with an outlook similar to hers. As demonstrated in the tensions between her and Guingona over the Visiting Forces Agreement and the Balikatan exercises, co-habitation with the opposition is an invitation to foreign policy incoherence, if not disaster. No opposition member—either in or out of office—should ever be considered to orchestrate the President's foreign policy.

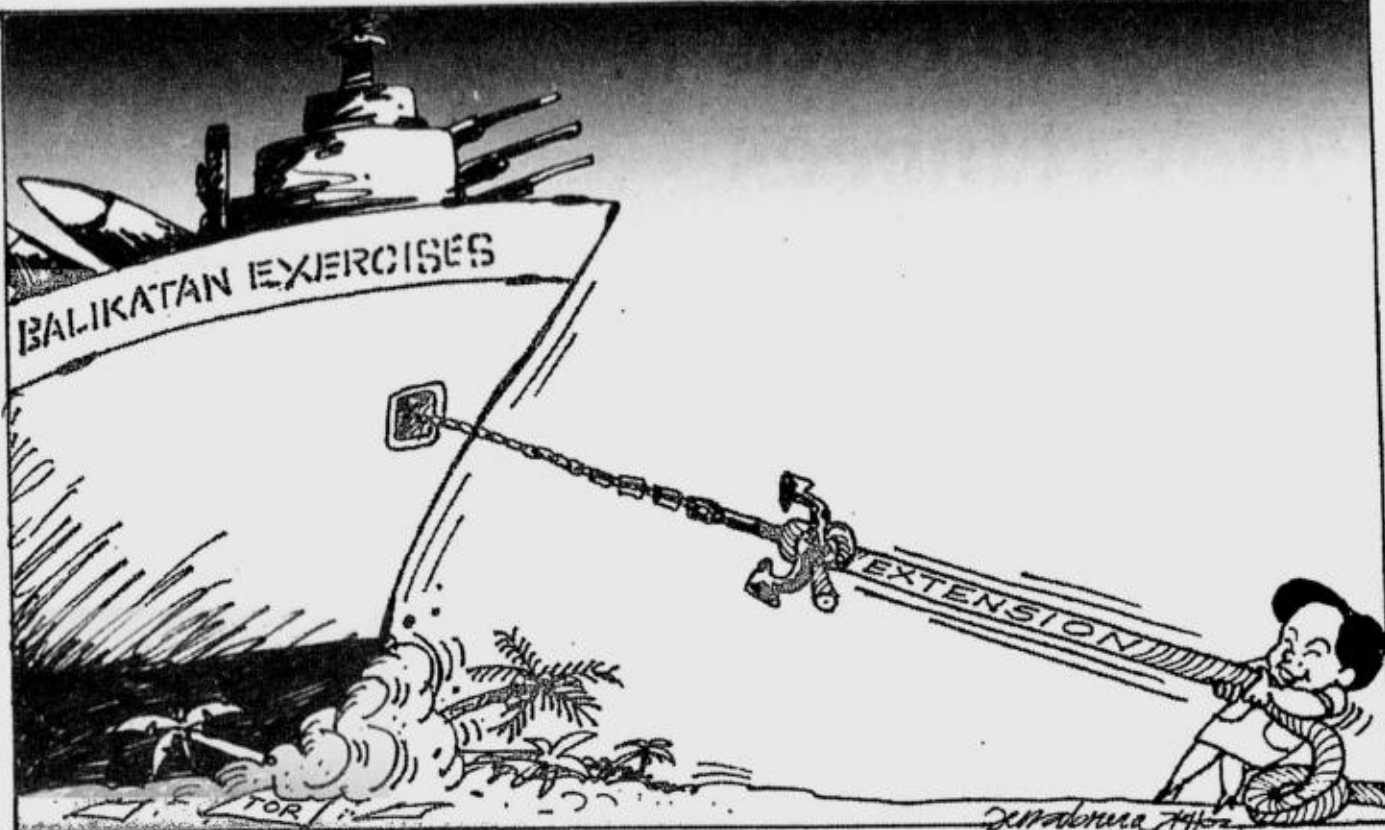
This leads us to the option of giving back the DFA to the professional diplomats. Fortunately, the foreign service does not want for suitable candidates. Four names have come up: Undersecretary Lauro Baja, former Ambassador to Washington Raul Rabe, Ambassador to Britain Cesar Bautista and Rodolfo Severino, secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Baja, Rabe and Severino are experienced senior diplomats with a long career service record. Bautista did not come from the career ranks, but he was trade secretary during the Ramos administration, prior to which he was an executive of Unilever. He has an impressive record for competence and performance in the Ramos Cabinet, and as ambassador to the Court of St. James. He is well-regarded in the diplomatic community.

Severino, whose forte is policy vision and who has broad international exposure, and Bautista stand out as candidates for foreign secretary whom the DFA staff can respect. Both are above the factional squabbles inside the DFA. If the President has enough respect for the foreign office and the importance of the foreign secretary as the key implementer of her policy, the clear choice is to return the DFA to the professionals.

Guingona was plagued by the problem that he is a politician and was virtually a babe in the woods in the foreign office. He bungled his job and blundered his way early in his term, alienating a number of staff officers. But as he was beginning to take his job seriously and learning the ropes, he got embroiled in policy disputes with the President, putting his tenure at risk. It was only a matter of time before their disagreements broke out to the surface, leading to Guingona's resignation.

With Ople playing hard to get, it is clear that the President cannot use, and does not need, the DFA card to break the Senate impasse. She has to look for other ways to raid the opposition ranks for Senate allies. Foreign policy, in which the President has demonstrated some bold strokes, is too important to be used as a political bargaining chip.



Should Congress legalize 'jueteng'?

JUETENG has already caused the downfall of one president and now maybe at least seven top police officers and it is still going strong. Can this illegal numbers game ever be stopped? There will be many—perhaps half of the nation—who will say "No, it cannot be stopped." The other half will say, we can stop it if we have enough political will to do it.

Those who say no point out that jueteng has been with us for decades. It is already part of the Filipino culture. Millions of *cobrador* and *kabo* earn their livelihood from it. Millions more bet on it; for the poor, jueteng is often their only ticket out of poverty. Every day, jueteng gives them hope. Last night's dream, or the snake that he saw yesterday, or the number of seeds in a fruit pod that fell on his head may be telling him the lucky numbers that will win today's lottery and make him rich. Maybe this is it. And so he bets the money with which he is supposed to buy rice for the family meal. They risk not eating today but if they win, they will eat *lechon*.

Stop jueteng and you kill that hope that keeps the poor going day after day after day. Stop it and you deprive millions of Filipinos of their means of livelihood.

And how can we stop it when everybody is benefiting from it, from the President to the senators and congressmen to the governors and mayors, to the police officers and patrol men down to the councilors and barangay captains and tanods? Everybody is on the take, for the gambling lords can afford to be generous. They make billions from jueteng. Distribute it liberally, give to the church and charities, to the baptisms, weddings and funerals, to the politicians and the sick, and you will have plenty of protectors and sympathizers. That is the secret of success of the gambling lords. That is why jueteng can never be eradicated, so they say.

There is only one way to stop jueteng, they say. Legalize it.

If gambling is legal, then there would be no violation. No more crime. It's as simple

As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

and easy as that.

On the other hand, if you legalize jueteng, you reward crime. You reward the gambling lords. You reward law-breakers. You reward corruption. You reward evil. What message do you leave to the people? That crime pays?

But jueteng has never been licked through these many years, they say. We can't win. If we can't lick them, let's join them. It's time to legalize it.

So, if you can't stop something, the solution is to legalize it? Does that mean that we should also legalize prostitution, which humankind has not been able to stop through the centuries? Does that mean we should also legalize the drug trade? Does that mean we should legalize kidnapping and robbery? Does that mean we should legalize corruption? Should we legalize rape? We have not been able to stop these crimes for decades.

Come to think of it, if we legalize all the crimes committed by man, then there would be no crime at all. There would be an era of peace. We wouldn't need policemen. We won't need prosecutors and judges. Best of all, we won't need Congress to pass laws that should not be violated. What bliss!

Ridiculous, isn't it? But believe it or not, that is the solution for the jueteng problem that many people want.

But you will be surprised that the policemen and government officials who are now benefiting from jueteng don't want it legalized. If it is no longer prohibited, the payola to them will stop. They want jueteng to continue to be illegal.

But there is the possibility that jueteng will



Foreign policy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



been her reinterpretation of Edsa II ever since, a turnover of power based on legal grounds that had her for a natural successor, and not an extralegal expression of the people's will that had her for an accidental byproduct.

I remember writing two columns at the time, a "Dear President" and "Dear Vice President" expressing these sentiments. Unlike the groups that had been shouting "Resign all," I recognized Ms. Macapagal as having the legal right to lead the country. Like the other groups that toiled to oust Erap, I recognized Guingona as having the moral right to do so. As a citizen, who owed loyalty to flag and country, I would show every respect for my President. As a Filipino, who owed a debt of gratitude to Rizal and Bonifacio, I would swear allegiance to my vice president.

But Guingona's removal from the DFA doesn't just write the final chapter on Edsa II, it writes the final chapter on the country's independence. Or at least, it removes, as I said above, the final obstacle in turning this country back into an American colony. Though Guingona has not always been staunch about it, he has at least shown an instinct for nationalism, alongside a passion for libertarian ideals, where his boss has shown only an instinct for self-preservation. It is unfortunate that he did not take a stronger stand when his boss was busy saying yes to everything the Americans wanted, chief of them the sending here of a tide of engineers to build a port in Basilan and a horde of American soldiers to protect them. What, you thought those troops were meant to protect us from the Abu Sayyaf?

I can understand, of course, how hard it has

be legalized—if not by this administration, maybe by the next. President Estrada almost did it. There is so much money and pressure riding on it. Give our legislators enough reasons to legalize it and they will.

So, if jueteng is ever to be legalized, it should be run by the city and municipal governments, not by the gambling lords, which Erap wanted to do. Give it to anybody else and the present jueteng lords will continue to have a parallel illegal operation and continue to corrupt policemen and government personnel. Why reward them for violating the law for decades? But give it to the local government units and they will fight colorem competition because it will take away from their legitimate income. Especially if the cops and government personnel will get a share of the profits from legal jueteng. If competition reduces their profits, their share will also be reduced.

Thus, the LGUs will have another lucrative source of funds to be spent for the people. Knowing that jueteng money goes back to them in the form of services, bettors will patronize the legal LGU jueteng operation instead of the colorem. Thus, you do not kill the hope of the people that this bet may be the combination that will lift them from poverty. You won't have to deprive the millions of *cobrador* and *kabo* of their means of livelihood. On the contrary, the LGUs will probably appoint more of them. After all, they are paid on commission basis.

Best of all, you stop corruption. Because policemen and government personnel no longer have to accept the bribes of gambling lords. They will get a legitimate share of the profits of the legal LGU jueteng operation. The bigger the profits, the bigger their share. So why would they allow colorem operators to eat up those profits?

I am not saying that we should legalize jueteng. But just in case the government wants to throw in the towel and surrender, and decides to legalize it, this is the way to do it.

been for nationalists to stand up to the emotional storm unleashed by Sept. 11—this country has been a sucker for myth, the myth of Erap and Joe, both saviors, both woven from the same cloth—but it remains unfortunate. Of course, Guingona did say after I took him to task for his diffidence that he merely bowed to a decision that wasn't his to make, he never changed his mind about anything. Well, that didn't save him anyway. It should have been clear from the way his boss put it some months ago: "You are with me or you are for the Abu Sayyaf." Which was an open recruitment for the Abu Sayyaf.

Guingona is gone from the DFA, ousted by the person who succeeded the tyrant he helped oust. It's not hard to see what kind of foreign policy we will have from here on. The nationalists of Diosdado Macapagal's time, who were stoked to outrage by his policy of decontrol, the forerunner of "globalization," and giving in to everything the Americans wanted—*déjà vu!*—used to joke that what this country had, which other Asian countries did not have, was a foreign policy. The policy of other Asian countries when dealing with other countries was to promote their interest first and last. Our policy when dealing with other countries, particularly the United States, was to promote the foreigners', particularly the American, interest first and last. Truly we had a foreign policy. We had a policy that was absolutely foreign to us.

It is a foreign policy that will soon bind us into a logistical agreement with the United States. It is foreign policy that will soon turn this country into a bigger site for the arcade game known as "Shoot Down the Terrorist." It is a foreign policy that will soon make us forget we waged our own Revolution, flew our own flag, and even had a couple of Edsas to boot.

It's a foreign policy that will make us foreigners in our own land.

Well, it's July 4. Malacañang should be partying all night and celebrating Independence Day. Some people are liberated from tyranny. Others are merely liberated from their senses.

GMA firm in her anti-ransom policy

I WAS able to catch Vice President Teofisto Guingona on the phone after he got back from Davao City, where he met with the President behind closed doors. He told me of his decision, as announced in a joint statement with the President later yesterday, to resign from the Department of Foreign Affairs and not to accept any other post in the Cabinet. It was earlier bruited that he was going to be moved to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. But apparently he felt that he would be a square hole in a round peg in that post, apart from the fact that his fellow fighter during the Marcos years and partymate, Environment Secretary and Lakas secretary general Heherson Alvarez, was occupying it. Guingona told me he wanted to take a two-month vacation and sort things out for himself. I asked him if he felt at peace with his decision, and he said, "Oh yes." I guess ultimately, what matters is that one is at peace with one's self. To the Vice President, the best of luck in the future.

The Vice President is one of the most decent persons around, and I think it's safe to say that many citizens feel bad that he is leaving the Cabinet under sad circumstances. For instance, I got a call from Rome-based Filipino community leader Tomas Concepcion, who said the Pinoys there are very concerned about what happened between our two top leaders. He recalled that the community met with Guingona when he visited Rome a few months ago, and had a very fruitful dialogue with him. He articulated the DFA's stand on absentee voting and other issues that strongly concern overseas Pinoys. Concepcion also pointed out that the representatives of various Third World countries were quite impressed with Guingona's speech before the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, where he aired their concern about the responsibility of the rich nations in bridging the great divide between North and South.

Concepcion also opined that the Kano influence drove the Vice President out of the Cabinet. Unfortunately for the administration, this is a common perception that will be difficult to erase.

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



It is difficult to erase. In fact, rightly or wrongly, the recent announcement of the release by US President George Bush of \$10 million in military equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines is being read as a ready exchange for Guingona's head.

One official who felt vindicated about the release of the Korean businessman who was kidnapped by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and presented to Malacañang the other day by incoming PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane was Speaker Joe de Venecia. JDV called up the MILF's political chieftain, Ghazali Jaafer, soon after the kidnap occurred and reminded him of the anti-kidnap cooperation agreement signed in Kuala Lumpur a few months earlier between the MILF, represented by Al Haj Murad, and the government, represented by Bert Gonzalez. To the credit of MILF chair Hashim Salamat, said JDV, his group kept their part of the bargain. JDV also stressed that no ransom was paid in the Korean's case, an indication of President Macapagal's firmness in her anti-ransom policy.

Football fans in this country feel quite bad that not one local TV channel covered the recently concluded World Cup held jointly in South Korea and Japan. Local aficionados had to settle for watching special telecasts in a few hotels here. They noted that by contrast, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and even Vietnam had adequate coverage. My son recalled that on a recent flight from Turkey to Bangkok aboard Singapore Airlines, the captain periodically spoke on the intercom to give updates

on the Turkey-Brazil match. There would be absolute quiet as he spoke; even the stewardesses and pursuers would pause in their work to listen. I can only surmise that the local channels felt that it would not be profitable to cover the event because the sport has relatively little following here.

The 27th death anniversary last June 26 of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, founder of Opus Dei, was commemorated here with a series of Masses in various churches, including the Manila Cathedral, as in previous years. But this year drew a lot more people to the Masses, and doubtless one reason is the realization that this is the last year Monsignor Escriva is being honored as "blessed." On Oct. 6 he will be elevated to the altar of the saints by Pope John Paul II. For those who may wish to catch either of the two remaining Masses for Blessed Josemaria this Saturday, July 6, they can do so at the Holy Rosary Parish in Angeles City at 10 a.m., to be officiated by Angeles Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, and at the Imus Cathedral in Cavite City.

The annual celebration of Book Development Month wound up last June 30, so it's not irrelevant to plug for a big little book, "The Battle for Manila," co-authored by Richard Connaughton, John Pimlott and Duncan Anderson and published by Platypus Publishing. Pre-order copies sell for only P440 each and can be placed at Tel. Nos. 867-1752 up to 53, or fax no. 750-1740. Originally conceived by the Memorare-Manila 1945 Committee to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Philippines, the book contains many pained and intimate recollections by various personalities of the tragedy that made Manila the war's second worst-hit city next to Warsaw. In his foreword, Connaughton pointed out that while the fact that three foreigners had authored this book might raise eyebrows, hopefully it would spur the people in the region to conduct and sponsor wider, extensive research into their rich history.

Blunders and surprises

FOR SOMEONE who loves to lecture the media on being more "responsible" and "positive," the President has the uncanny penchant for behaving like the media's most reckless elements.

If Malacañang sources are to be believed, the premature release of the President's letter "accepting" Vice President Tito Guingona's resignation from the Department of Foreign Affairs was triggered by reports that he would deliver a scathing attack on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. More specifically, he was supposedly set to take potshots at her decision to overlook the constitutional issues surrounding the Balikatan exercises.

The President supposedly gave the green light to Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Añable to announce to the media Guingona's "resignation" to head off any challenge from the Vice President and steal the thunder from his speech.

As it turns out, the speech Guingona delivered at the Manila Overseas Press Club was nothing new, and was indeed basically supportive of the administration's foreign policy. Given his humiliating treatment at the administration's hands, it does seem really big of Guingona to have proceeded to deliver the same prepared speech at the MOPC. Most anyone would agree that if he proceeded to attack the President as she feared, it would only be because he was provoked into doing so.

Still, it must be asked why, after she had received supposed intelligence about Guingona's intentions, the President didn't simply pick up the phone and talk with the Vice President himself. Even if she didn't trust him to tell her the truth, at the very least a phone call would have sent the message that she was on to him. Unless, embarrassing him before the nation and the world was the point of the entire exercise.

BY MANY accounts, it was an entirely unnecessary exercise. Guingona himself admitted that he had been previously sounded out about resigning the DFA post, and that a "scenario" had indeed been scripted to make for a graceful and face-saving exit.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Why, then the mess that attended his departure? A mess that embarrassed not just Guingona, but President Macapagal, too, as well as our entire government.

That Guingona the other day finally sat down to talk with the President and agreed to issue a joint statement formally announcing his resignation simply testifies to his caliber as a statesman and—despite his short stint at the DFA—diplomat. But even the hasty fence-mending on the part of the President has done little to quell the resentment and bad feelings stirred by the incident, even or especially among members of the administration party.

I'm inclined to take the statement of administration Sen. Kiko Pangilinan as both a warning and a plea. "Guingona is an ally," Pangilinan was quoted as saying. "Thus her other allies are concerned if they too might be treated similarly in the future. The President should reassure her allies that she is out to strengthen alliances, not break them."

A POTENTIAL revolt in the ranks of her supporters is something the President must head off as soon as possible, especially since the shabby treatment of Guingona was triggered in part by her desire to build new alliances among the opposition.

It was a fairly well-known secret, in fact, that to break the impasse at the Senate, the President was prepared to offer Cabinet posts to opposition senators, the most likely of whom was Sen. Blas Ople for the DFA. Guingona may in all likelihood have even agreed to step down to make way for Ople, though the senator has said he refused to

even talk about the offer until the post was really vacant.

Days before the imbroglio over the "Dear Tito" letter, Malacañang sources had already floated stories about the various Cabinet posts that were supposed to be offered to opposition figures. Clearly, the reports were meant to test public opinion about the acceptability of the proposed appointments. One appointment that certainly provoked a raised eyebrow was that of Sen. Gringo Honasan for defense secretary. Since when does a coup plotter end up being "rewarded" with the defense portfolio?

BEYOND THE AWKWARD handling of this tricky political scenario are the issues raised about the formulation and application of the country's foreign policy. So there was a "difference of opinion" on foreign policy between the two top officials of the land. Isn't it at all possible to discuss and negotiate policy matters without it turning into a duel? Shouldn't policy be crafted as part of a process of consultation and consensus? What serious "difference of opinion" proved too huge an obstacle that Guingona had to be let go?

The Americans are, of course, being seen as having a hand in Guingona's unceremonious ouster, since he was outspoken in his objections to their military presence. But as one commentator said, the way the matter was handled was so clumsy and unsophisticated that it would be unfair to blame it on the Americans.

Still, it's not far-fetched to imagine the marching orders coming all the way from Washington, D.C., only to have the execution bungled back here.

The Americans may have a nasty surprise awaiting them, though. Ople may be an old foreign affairs hand, sent to Washington, D.C. by Marcos to try to drum up waning American support in the dying days of the regime. But it doesn't mean he is any less of a nationalist than Guingona, and would not seek to uphold the national interest as a way of capping his decades of service to the country.

Doreen in Cyberspace

THERE has been an outpouring, in print especially, for Doreen Gamboa-Fernandez, beloved teacher, writer, critic, gourmet, friend of so many Filipino-loving Filipinos. Her death last week and the outpouring that followed revealed the vastness of her writing concerns and the bigness of her heart. Oh, she was so loved.

She was my teacher, too, a long time ago, when I had yet no inkling that words would become a big part of my world.

At last count, the INQUIRER, where she was a columnist (her own last piece appears today), has come out with five articles on her. I read two long ones in the Star. Other papers and magazines had something on her, too. But Cyberspace was something else.

When Doreen suddenly fell ill in New York and was confined in a hospital, her countless friends here—the e-mail junkies and e-group members mostly—received regular bedside "medical" bulletins through the efforts of Big Apple-based writers like Mang Bert Florentino and Luis Francia. I was somewhat discomfited by it all; it was like having a bedside view of Doreen who had long battled various illnesses and survived, and watching her slip away finally.

Well, there has been some exchange of views in one e-group about this. Here I share excerpts without using the well-known names of the senders. Very interesting and instructive.

Subject: Re: [plaridel] Doreen Gamboa Fernandez

"Colleagues: As someone who knows Doreen and admires her I naturally feel saddened by this news—however I must raise the ethical issue of making such an announcement in this manner—I know people mean well and all who know Doreen may appreciate hearing about her death so quickly but I feel discomforted that such news is given to all without distinguishing between friends, family and relative strangers—is there a proper norm about using the Net for such private affairs?"

"Sorry for the very late reaction. I think one reason there has been a lot of interest in Doreen Fernandez in this egroup is that many member-subscribers of Plaridel Papers—quite a number of whom are professional writers and journalists, as well as academics and students—knew Doreen

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



personally. You may have noticed that there was no comparable exchange of Plaridel correspondence regarding Larry Alcala, Levi Celerio and Lucio San Pedro."

"We are all naturally saddened by Doreen's death and she will live on in our thoughts and memories—my initial uneasiness (comes from my interest) in the problem of the public/private dichotomy and the difficulty of maintaining this separation in the Internet—many of our users certainly use the list as a form of private communication—this is fine by me but then how do we distinguish truly private reflections, etc. I think this difficulty is compounded for most Filipinos who rarely make a strong separation of these spheres—of course the worst offenders are politicians who seem to mistake public funds over which they have control as a source of private wealth—until the separation of these spheres is fully achieved it will be difficult to distinguish private opinions and beliefs such as religion from a secular domain where believers and non-believers can agree on common solutions to collective problems..."

"Your concerns are misplaced. As a sociologist you should know: death, especially that of a very public figure, shatters the divide between private and public and reveals the utter conventionality—which is to say, arbitrariness—of those concepts to begin with. The outpouring of grief and the work of mourning necessarily suspend such social categories as private and public, individual and collective, mobilizing sentiments that overflow all sorts of social divisions. This overflowing opens up the channels of communication that compel every listener to be a teller of stories, every reader to become a writer of memories, every spectator to become a participant in the unfolding of a new community,

virtual or otherwise, founded on the disappearance of a loved one. The political history of the Philippines, like all other nation-states, bear ample witness to this process. And Doreen's death exemplifies the manner in which death, that most radical reality of existence, lies at the basis of social life..."

Ah, Doreen, you must love listening in to all this!

Now, here's something from Doreen herself. She sent this warm Christmas poem on Christmas Eve (12:10:25 +0800) of 2001 to me and to friends listed in her e-mail address book. She sent it from kanlaon@surfshop.net.ph. When I read it on Christmas Day, I could imagine her face and hear that gentle lilt in her voice. And I felt so good. I had kept the poem in my inbox and there it stayed until she died.

Christmas Poem, 1990
by Kathleen Raine

Dear friends, whose letters alight like birds in my mornings,

Had we been together in some happy remembered place

We would have lived and told

The stories and the news, the long deep conversations

In rooms and gardens where we might have been

With an old friend too long unseen,

Or one too briefly known.

Many, many the unsaid words, the unarticulated joys,

The unexpressed affection, unshared laughter; and yet

In the unrecorded and to fro of thought

Are we not often together, the unspoken

Travelling between us in the invisible ways?

The words we write only the signature

Of boundless life, that makes us one

Without those we know and love, and the unloved unknown.

Peace at Christmas and blessings in the New Year. I think of you. All the best,

Doreen

Send comments to cespdpd@info.com.ph or cdoyo@inquirer.com.ph

Thoughts of a ghost

WHAT have I done to you?

Have I displeased you? Maybe I was incapable of giving you what you wanted, like a slender waistline and a perfect body like the one of that wail of a model Kate Moss. Or perhaps I'm a disgrace, a big disgrace stuck to your womb. Maybe you were afraid to face the consequences of sleeping with a man you hardly knew, and coming home with a child in your womb and a burden to bear.

Maybe you were afraid of me. But who am I?

You should know. I lived in you for a while until you decided that I would look better inside a jar.

Does it make you feel good to think you're finally rid of me? That you, at last, have one less thing to worry about? That you're over and done with one big responsibility? Do you find comfort in the thought that wouldn't have known anyway that, heck, I was too small to feel the pain?

But I know. And I feel all the evil.

You held me in you for a few months with much anger and hatred, regret and a feeling of shame and disgrace. I felt you try to squeeze me to my death. You suffocated me. My world swirled and swirled, faster by the minute. Until I fell. I fell, deep, deep down, away from my world, your world. I lost my life before I was born.

And my innocence? Spoiled and rotten like your womb.

Your womb. It should have been my source of life, a steady stream that would have cradled me and protected me from the world's contagion. It could've nurtured me, a life worth living and a life worth living for, a gift. Instead, it turned into an angry and furious cradle. It became my enemy, the devil. It became the crime scene. Your womb, unforgiving, wasted, depraved, turned into a killer. It killed me.

I was dead even before I saw the light of day. I became the past even before I lived in the present.

Perhaps to you, this pain is nothing more than another TV episode, another mistake you've made.

I don't want to hear you say you hate me. I refuse to believe it. I see you every time, full of hope, full of opportunities, full of joy. It's hard to believe that you could hate like you did and do what you did.

Please say it was unpremeditated, a natural occurrence. Please say you didn't mean it. Say you were abducted, placed in a situation you couldn't get out of. Say you were trapped. Please say it was really not your fault. Please say you didn't hate me. Hating me would be worse than floating in nothingness, worse than searching for emptiness and living in it.

Please say this is a bad dream. Please say I am still yours. In your womb, contented and snug. Alive.

Please say I'm not just a ghost.

Ma, why did you do this to me?

Sophia Sabrina F. Elane, 16, is a junior at Woodrose School in Muntinlupa City.

Amah and me

Aissa Marie Ang

MY grandmother is a short, plump, silver-haired, old, Chinese lady. She may not be much to look at, but she has proven to be a fountain of wisdom for this young and restless adolescent.

For as far back as I can remember, my amah has encouraged me to read books. I was barely 4 years old when she sat me down on her lap and opened a colorful children's book. We flipped through the pages and I did my best to read the simple words printed on them. That was all it took to get me hooked on books.

I was fascinated by the stories my amah told me about Confucius, the most famous thinker and teacher in Chinese history. She told me he was the first person in China to argue that everybody must be educated to make the world a better place. She urged me to be diligent in my studies, saying education was the only way to escape the clutches of ignorance and poverty. Knowledge was power, she said, but power must be used for the common good.

I learned to love and value books, reading and everything that enriched and stimulated my growth as a person. Because of this, I have always been an honor student and an even-tempered individual.

I believe obtaining a good education is tantamount to serving my country. You see, when I finish school, I will get a wonderful job, and with my expertise become a highly productive citizen. By doing exceptionally well in my chosen field, I will not only be rendering service to my country but to my fellowmen as well.

Aside from the stories she told me, amah taught me how to dream. "If you can dream it, you can do it. Believe, have faith, and you can achieve your dreams."

Her words pushed me to dream big, to hitch my wagon to a star while keeping my feet on the ground.

That's why I aspire to be the world's most successful woman CEO. I believe that gender is no barrier to success, the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom and rendering service to country and people.

After I shall have accomplished what I seek to do in the not-so-distant future, I will help alleviate poverty in my country by establishing an educational foundation. This institution will help those who are determined to have a good education but who are financially challenged. I believe that children who have the potential to become the next Bill Gates or Stephen Hawking should be given every opportunity to get an education as well as the stimulation and expansion of the mind and the exploration of the unknown but knowable.

The gift and the power of the intellect must not be wasted, but harnessed for the good of humankind.

This noble dream is very close to my heart because of the stories my amah told me that inspired it. I am aware that I sound idealistic, but there is no harm in dreaming and believing. This is a big dream, but I know I can do it.

My character and credentials speak for themselves and of the love of the kindly old woman who took the time to tell meaningful stories in such a way that it left an everlasting impression on the being of this young and restless adolescent.

Aissa Marie Ang, 14, is a second year high school student at the Colegio de San Ignacio in Davao City.

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Relief of PNP officers legal and routine

THIS concerns the decision of Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina and the National Police Commission to relieve seven top officials of the Philippine National Police of their assignments.

Let me say outright that questions regarding the legality or propriety of the decision are misplaced and inappropriate. Sec. 13 of Republic Act 6975 "An Act Establishing The Philippine National Police Under A Reorganized Department of the Interior and Local Government, And For Other Purposes" as amended by RA 8551 states that:

"A National Police Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, is hereby created...The Commission shall be an agency attached to the Department (of the Interior and Local Government) for policy and program coordination. It shall be composed of a Chairperson...The Secretary of the Department shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the Commission."

Sec. 14 of RA 6957 as amended states:

"The Commission shall exercise

the following powers and functions:

"Exercise administrative control and operational supervision, over the Philippine National Police which shall mean the power to:

"(Par. 2) Examine and audit, and thereafter establish standards for such purposes on a continuing basis, the performance, activities...of all police agencies throughout the country;

"(Par. 4) Conduct an annual self-report survey...for the accurate assessment of the crime situation and the proper evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of all police units in the country;

"(Par. 10) Inspect and assess compliance of the PNP on the established criteria...and their impact on the community and the crime situation...;

"(Par. 11) Monitor the performance of the local chief executives as deputies of the Commission;

"(Par. 12) Monitor and investigate police anomalies and irregularities."

In the light of the foregoing provisions, the Napolcom with the

secretary as chairperson, has the discretion to decide on matters involving the competencies of its subordinates in the discharge of their functions. The relief of the PNP regional directors is therefore legal.

Furthermore, it is axiomatic in the bureaucracy that assignments and postings are completely in the hands of the appropriate authorities or superiors. This is in fact a routine regularly exercised by management. Such is a way of life among us career officials in the bureaucracy.

I have worked with Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay since his first stint as director in the National Capital Region in 1998 and in the last year and half after he got back the post. I can definitely say that he is among the most competent police officers I have ever known and worked with. He is most upright, extremely hardworking, easy to work with and, so rare among officials of high rank, a man so humble in manner. I continue to hope that one day he will rise much higher and farther in the police force and even beyond. Notwith-



standing all these, it appears that reasons and/or purposes have been found by the members of the Napolcom to justify their decision to terminate his services as head of the NCR police.

All of us who are in the bureaucracy must bow to the judgment of our superiors who must be deemed to possess the knowledge, the information and the perspective which are beyond the realm and jurisdiction of subordinates.

We have to presume good faith in their exercise of powers, particularly if such exercise is motivated by the higher interest of public service and the nation.

—SERAFIN M. BENALDO, Ceso III, regional director, DILG-NCR, G/F LMP Bldg., 265 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City

A smaller and cheaper legislature

THERE is a growing consensus to abolish the Senate! Fine. But we should go further and abolish both Houses of Congress!

Why? Both Houses continue to fail to accomplish (substantially) their primary task of legislation. What we witness day in and day out are endless congressional investigations "in aid of legislation" amounting to nothing but media exposure for the investigators, obviously to keep their names in the public mind for the next elections.

Incidentally, how many of these congressional inquiries resulted in concrete legislation? Hardly any! What a waste of people's money and precious time.

Since both have failed, it is but fair and proper that both should suffer the consequences of their folly!

With the abolition of both chambers, a brand new one can be formed at a much smaller expense and no new elections to boot. How? The incumbent provincial governors (only 78 in all) shall become concurrently assemblymen in a new unicameral legislature. After all, the governors are the direct link to the people in each province and therefore they are in the best position to know their needs and problems. With their collective experience and know-how, they can legislate laws which are truly reflective of the nation's will.

—JOSE T. APOLO, J.T. Apollo Law Offices, 4368 Rosemallow Rd., Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City

Outdated, confiscatory land valuation in CARP

THIS refers to the news item in the June 25 issue of the INQUIRER, titled "DAR exec punished for jailing bank head cries foul."

While this bit of news would on its face appear to be just another story about an errant government official trying to justify his questionable acts, I would like to appeal to the INQUIRER and all members of the fourth estate to keep a close watch over the developments of this case. Its outcome will have a very strong impact not just on the persons involved but on landlords and farmer-tenants in the entire country and the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in general.

I had a chance to work in the Department of Agrarian Reform's Legal Affairs Office from 1991 to 1992. Even during those days, more than a decade ago, the big stumbling block to the implementation of CARP was valuation. Landlords from all corners of the Philippines could not accept the price being offered for their land. Our standard reply was that there was nothing we could do since we were only using the formula laid down by the

law (*Dura lex, sed lex*).

By the law, we meant Executive Order No. 228 signed by President Corazon Aquino in 1987, which mandated that valuation of rice and corn lands covered by Presidential Decree No. 27 shall be based on the average gross production per hectare, multiplied by two and a half (2.5), the product of which shall be multiplied by P35, the government support price for one cavan of 50 kilos of palay on Oct. 21, 1972, or P31, the government support price for one cavan of 50 kilos of corn on Oct. 21, 1972 and the amount arrived at shall be the value of the land.

I left the DAR a decade ago because of my desire to engage in private practice, and joined the Meralco Legal Department. After another year, I was again lured into working for the government, but with a different agency this time. During all those years, I have often wondered whether the authorities did anything to improve the valuation system, and I always thought they must have done something about it by now. They couldn't be using the 1972

prices 30 years later.

Well, after reading the news item, my worst fears were confirmed: they are still using the same formula to compute the price of the land. Quoting your paper, "Teves had insisted on an original land valuation, which pegged the property's value at P171,131.18 based on a valuation policy schedule applied by the Aquino administration," I presume this referred to the same old EO 228.

However, you quoted Napoleon Baguilat as saying, "I was making a point here. I was making my judgment using a legitimate (Marcos era) law. Teves was making his own appraisal using another law. There are too many agencies with this authority to assess lands, so I don't think I could be faulted for alerting the authorities to this problem."

I would really appreciate it if your paper would either give Baguilat a chance to elaborate or print the continuation of his arguments as this case progresses. I wonder what other law he is referring to because any law student would know that if he was referring to a Marcos law, then that

enough remains an unsolved problem despite all the laws prohibiting it.

Why doesn't the government think of building solid and waste water treatment plants? Doesn't anyone pass by Manila Bay and breathe the morning air?

—LUISITO V. SEQUITIN, PEE, Hillcrest Village, Camarin Road, North Caloocan



Waste treatment plants needed

ALL the talk about cleaning up the Pasig River and saving the environment will amount to nothing if all the liquid and solid wastes are dumped directly into the river and eventually end in the sea.

Most of our Asian neighbors have built solid and waste water treatment plants in their cities while we continue to pollute our rivers. As former President Joseph Estrada

said, we have the "biggest septic tank in the world."

"Piso para sa Pasig" will not achieve anything if all the organic and chemical wastes are not processed and cleaned before being re-deposited in the rivers or seas. Our rivers emit a very foul smell and contribute to a very unhealthy environment. This is not to mention "smoke belching" which strangely

enough remains an unsolved problem despite all the laws prohibiting it.

Why doesn't the government think of building solid and waste water treatment plants? Doesn't anyone pass by Manila Bay and breathe the morning air?

—LUISITO V. SEQUITIN, PEE, Hillcrest Village, Camarin Road, North Caloocan

America in progress

IT was a strange sight. I was walking with friends through a vegetable field when we suddenly came upon a group of about a dozen people, sitting around a table. It seemed like they were preparing a meal but when we asked, they said they were making medicines—out of yarrow leaves and deer bile.

I'm describing something that happened just last week, and the place was a town in California.

I was in the United States for meetings with the Public Health Institute, but my hosts had arranged a rather interesting Sunday that included a tour of Camp Joy, an organic farm

out in the mountains of Santa Cruz. It was in Camp Joy where our group "stumbled" upon the medicine-makers.

My American readers are probably going, "Nothing new. What do you expect? That's California."

Sure, but it is another side of America, even California, that we rarely see. The America Filipinos know is a country of mega malls and mega stars, of fast bucks and fast foods. It is a system that grew out of America's experience with industrial capitalism. After all, it was the Americans who perfected mass production, even developing a science of time and motion studies to find ways to produce more goods in less time.

This economic ethos has spilled over into all facets of American life, for example, in their fast-food joints with express service and jumbo servings. On freeways (in California at least), slowpokes should know there's also a minimum speed limit. Even American compliments has always been one of superlatives, everything being great, superb, super, followed by several exclamation points!!!!

It's a system that has promoted efficiency and prosperity. But over the years, Americans have come to recognize there are trade-offs too. Affluence easily becomes excess. The mega servings of food have produced, literally and figuratively, a heavyweight public health problem.

The idea is simple: agriculture does not need to involve super-harvests using pesticides and fertilizers. Organic agriculture is only part of an emerging counter-culture that talks of slowing down consumption, of considering recycling and renewal.

Again, some of you may scoff and say, oh, this organic thing is just a hold-over from the flower power and hippie era. Yet what actually struck me on this last trip was not so much Camp Joy than the way so much of the "hippie" counter-culture has become mainstreamed.

I spent time too with the Packard Foundation, which was set up by David Packard, yes, the "P" in the HP brand of computers. The Packard Foundation is one of the largest philanthropies today in the world, supporting many causes, including environmental conservation, the arts, humanities, public health and family planning. Although it is a foundation, it operates pretty much like a corporation, with a large staff dispersed in several buildings in Silicon Valley. Foundation staff talk about "values," but not in the conservative sense of flag-waving and performed piety. They talk of respect for the individual, of the need to be gracious, the need to dare to think, and to think big. It's an interesting mixture reflecting the American ethos, both the past and the present.

What's most important is that all this isn't just rhetoric. You don't find posters in the office declaring the foundation's vision, mission, goals like you do here in the Philippines, but you find the values are lived out. The atmosphere in the office is egalitarian—no sir's, no ma'am's, only an occasional "Boss" or "Bossing" coming from Filipino staff, but said half in jest.

Again, you could argue that this is a non-profit organization and they are an exception. But the day we went to Camp Joy we also visited the Big Basin national park, where we had an impressive docent (guide) who knew everything about redwoods, from their ages (some two or three thousand years) to why they thrive in the Bay Area (they love fog). Even learned how one of California's towns, Palo Alto, got its name: settlers, awed by the redwoods, gasped in Spanish, "What tall trees!"

So, was Jonathan, the docent, a forest ranger? Nope. A botanist? Nope. An environmental activist? Sort of. He does these tours as a public service, on his free weekends. On weekdays, he has another life, working with Adobe, the computer company.

Sarah Clark, who heads the population program at Packard, explained to me that in California, people don't necessarily wake up and go to bed with the same identity. You don't have to wake up 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The passion for your work you can transfer to a passion for particular causes, like the redwoods, or organic gardening, or doing a Website (www.bigbasin.org) for the park, as Jonathan does.

This is a side of America that seems almost strange because it isn't about targets and deadlines and return on investment ratios.

Only in California? I don't think so. This counter-culture may actually draw from an older ethos that accompanied the creation of America. It's the spirit of settlers fleeing the Old World because of religious and political persecution, one that emphasized individual freedom and autonomy. Those values provided fertile ground for free enterprise. Yet this individuality is in constant tension with notions, sacred for many Americans, of fairness and equity, of giving people, and nature, a fighting chance.

It's not easy figuring out all these faces of America, but then that's what makes that country so fascinating. In trying to emulate the America that is Disneyland and Hollywood and Balikatan, we miss out on the America that is a work in progress.

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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PNP drive vs marijuana in Kalinga

THIS has reference to the letter last June 29, 2002 titled "Marijuana industry flourishing in Kalinga."

The writers of the letter seemed to have reported to you a history of the marijuana problem in the province of Kalinga from way back in the 1980s. They retold a story and thereby showed that they themselves have not set foot on Mt. Chumanchil and the Butbut area, and that they lack knowledge of the extent of the clearing and eradication operations that were conducted and are

being conducted by the police against this menace.

The allegation that the police have no intention of stopping for good the so-called marijuana industry is untrue. Since last year, we have conducted marijuana eradication operations. From January 2001 to date, our office conducted 12 operations, three of which were aimed to eradicate marijuana. In these operations we uprooted 774,000 marijuana plants valued at P155 million; recovered 303,000 seedlings worth P12 million; confiscated 48 kilos of dried leaves or

bricks worth P1.2 million; recovered 275 kilos hashish worth P68.75 million. These values are based on price estimates set by the Dangerous Drugs Board.

During the 12 operations we conducted, 22 persons were arrested and 10 cases have been filed in court against them.

It is really discouraging to know that in spite of the efforts of law-enforcement agencies and the provincial government, there are still people who, instead of helping in the campaign against this social menace, try to present

Kalinga in a bad light.

The province of Kalinga, particularly those areas that were mentioned, is not capable of producing such large quantities of marijuana since we have been successful in minimizing it and preventing its growth and its cultivators are on the run.

High-tech marijuana processing facilities do not exist in Butbut or in Buscalan. They use crude facilities like tire jacks and pieces of wood in producing marijuana bricks, while pots and calderos are used to cook hashish. Processing

marijuana products does not need high-tech instruments.

Uprooting several hectares of marijuana takes several days and it involves about a hundred men. One hectare has at least 10,000 plants and uprooting plants in 10 hectares takes three to five days, with a hundred men working. And we have done that.

Further, please be informed that Mt. Chumanchil is two days' hike from Butbut and cultivators always try to hide their plantation. They don't plant in a single place but scatter the plants in

various places.

Besides, the people of Butbut as well as the Buscalan tribe are peace-loving people, with the exception perhaps of a few, thus it is unfair to label them as wrongdoers. During our operations, they are very cooperative and supportive of the police. They themselves desire the total eradication of this evil.

—ELMER MAULION MACAPAGAL, police superintendent (DSC), provincial director, Kalinga Police Provincial Office, Camp Juan M. Duyan, Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga

Yap buys into CEU

By Doris C. Dumlaog

CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman Emilio Yap yesterday acquired a 27-percent stake in Centro Escolar University (CEU), one of the largest and most profitable universities in the country, for about P761 million, according to INQUIRER sources.

It was consummated through a block sale of about 94 million CEU shares at P8.10 per share on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The sale made Yap a strategic partner of the Echaz family who used to control the majority of CEU stocks.

With the transaction, the remaining stake held by the Echaz family was reduced to 27 percent or equal to the stake acquired by Yap, who controls a wide array of businesses including the Manila Hotel, Manila Bulletin and Philtrust Bank.

Sources said Yap's acquisition of CEU was made through local company USAutoCo.

With his 27-percent stake in the

university, Yap will be given three of CEU's nine board seats, the sources said.

"The changes in the board of directors will be announced in the next few weeks," one of the sources said.

The selling parties are the Echaz family's CEU Holdings (about 21 percent) and Standard Insurance Co. Inc. (6 percent).

The transaction made the Yap and Echaz families in control of 55 percent. A 24-percent stake is held by the Tionco family, and the remaining 18 percent by the public. CEU has 372.4 million outstanding shares.

The sources said CEU Holdings reduced its stake so that it could focus on other businesses.

Standard Insurance, a leading car insurer, which is going public late this year or early next year, plans to use the P185 million it generated from the sale of CEU shares to reduce its debts. It is expected to bring down its debt to P140 million.

Vicky Belo . . .

From page A1

She's also a favorite of aging politicians and socialites.

"The proof of the pudding is in the result. Our clients were all happy. I've set high standards for myself in this job," Belo further told the INQUIRER.

Breach of ethics

"She's advertising beyond what's required in the code of medical ethics," doctor and lawyer, Bu Castro, PMA secretary general, told the INQUIRER.

The code limits a doctor to advertise only his or her name, specialty and hours of practice. The violation of medical ethics is ground for the Philippine Professional Regulatory Commission (PPRC) to strip a doctor of his license.

"The code of ethics for doctors does not allow the use of our names for advertising purposes. So, members of the PMA have called our attention to the Belo Medical Group," explained Castro.

"We wrote to her to ask her to explain her side," Castro said. "She told me she'd explain everything when she returns. She will hold a press conference."

According to Castro, the prominent dermatologist has built up her practice by promoting her name with the use of movie stars like Rosanna Roces.

"Even hospitals like St. Luke's and the Asian Medical Center put out advertisements," Belo reasoned out. "If they want to restrict or limit the advertisements, they should impose guidelines and we will follow them," she added.

Belo denied she has been advertising herself to promote her clinic.

"It's a corporation that's why it's called Belo Medical Group," she informed. "It's not just me. I'm not promoting myself but the corporation."

Intrigues

Since she started practice specializing in liposuction, Belo said she has been constantly subjected to intrigues.

"I've been so quiet, but there are people who won't stop hitting me," she said. "I'd like to think I've proven myself. I've built a good reputation the past 12 years. It's so painful to hear all these allegations and it's so hard to remedy them. But I guess the intrigues will follow me all my life."

Belo took up pre-med B.S. Psychology at the University of the Philippines and completed her medical studies specializing in dermatology, at the University of Sto. Tomas.

She passed the board and obtained her medical license in 1986.

She trained at Makati Medical Center for one year; went to Thailand, where she trained in cosmetic surgery under Dr. Nawat Pornikorn. She received a diploma in dermatology from Thailand's Institute of Dermatology.

Belo studied liposuction surgery with Dr. Jeffrey Kleiner at San Juan Capistrano Surgery Center in California.

She also did laser surgery with Dr. Richard Fitzpatrick in the United States.

Third letter

Should Belo fail to answer the letter, the third one sent since last year, Castro said the PPRC can assume jurisdiction of the matter and initiate proceedings to withdraw Belo's license.

But in a telephone interview, Lani Morales, Belo's Medical Center administrative officer, said the PMA may not have the authority to investigate Belo because she is not a member of the Philippine Dermatological Association—which is under the PMA—but the American Dermatological Association.

"She is affiliated with an international medical board and she cannot be stopped from advertising," she said.

But Castro said Belo is not above the PMA and the PPRC rules and regulations because she is practicing here.

According to Castro they are also checking reports that Belo was not herself a practicing dermatologist and hired other doctors to perform the liposuction operations.

Castro said this is contrary to her advertising claims that she was doing the liposuction operations.

Belo pointed out that all her doctors are licensed to perform liposuction in the Philippines.

Other doctors probed

Castro said that Belo's case is just one among the many complaints against doctors brought to the attention of the PMA. He said the probe involves about 540 doctors.

Apart from Belo, he said they have also taken action against the Osaka Iridology Clinic for allegedly promoting dubious medical products which they claim have "therapeutic effects."

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CAR and DRIVER has something to say about it, too.

CAR AND DRIVER

October 2001 issue: **PREVIEW**

April 2002 issue: **ROAD TEST**

"We're also impressed by the Sedona's feeling of slickness. The doors shut solidly and silently. The sliding doors glide easily. The seat latches have a durable, trusty feel. There's no Third World junkiness here. These were early production cars, we were assured. Probably they were massaged to show-car perfection. All the same, they make a key point - Kia clearly knows what a good car feels like. That's a big step toward industrial and consumer-respect."

"What impresses us even more than the features-per-dollar density is the astute feel of the controls. The steering has a natural heft, with no on-center vagueness, no kick-back, and good buildup of effort in turns. Brake-pedal force is similarly intuitive, with little dead travel and a reassuring feel as retardation builds (braking performance is also decent at 192 feet from 70 mph). KIA hasn't overtaken Chrysler for carlike driving dynamics yet, but it's looming in the Voyager / Caravan's rearview mirror."

CAR and DRIVER featured the KIA SEDONA in two issues, and found it impressive. It's not surprising, because KIA designed and built the SEDONA to provide lasting value, backing it up with the longest product warranty* as proof of its confidence in build quality and performance.

Its safety aspect is just as impressive, with the highest 5-star ratings for frontal and side impact protection awarded by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in its annual New Vehicle Assessment Program, making the KIA SEDONA the leading minivan in crash protection.



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How KIA SEDONA rated vs. its minivan competitors*:

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Chevrolet Venture	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★
Ford Econoline	★★★	★★★	not tested	not tested
Chrysler Town/Country	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Dodge Caravan	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★

*available as public information from <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/nscap>

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bush stands firm vs war crimes court

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Tuesday he hoped to "work out" an impasse with the United Nations over the new International Criminal Court but stood by his repudiation of the tribunal.

"We'll try to work out the impasse at the United Nations. But one thing we're not going to do is sign on to the International Criminal Court," Bush said during a brief visit here to tout his domestic agenda.

Washington on Sunday vetoed renewal of the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia to highlight its concerns that the court could be used to pursue US forces or officials with politically motivated prosecution.

The Bush administration later backed off, granting the mission a 72-hour reprieve that lapses at midnight Wednesday.

On Monday, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal officially opened its doors in The Hague with a mandate to bring to justice perpetrators of the worst crimes against humanity.

Bush said he would not submit the treaty creating the court to the US

Senate for ratification because "as the United States works to bring peace around the world, our diplomats and our soldiers could be drug into this court, and that's very troubling to me."

Democrat Joe Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Tuesday that Europe must "be more sensitive" to the need to spare US troops from "frivolous prosecution" but said the veto was a ham-handed approach.

"It jeopardizes the continuation of vital peacekeeping and police training missions in Bosnia—and UN operations elsewhere. And that undermines our fundamental goal of bringing permanent security to the Balkans and other troubled areas of the world," he said in a statement.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters traveling with the president that the United

States was "absolutely not" using the flap as a pretext for curtailing its international peacekeeping commitments.

"The President thinks the ICC is fundamentally flawed because it puts American servicemen and women at fundamental risk of being tried by an entity that is beyond America's reach, beyond America's laws, and can subject American civilian and military to arbitrary standards of justice," he said.

That's why the court "is a threat to America's involvement to be peacekeepers and to help around the world," said Fleischer, who declined to predict the result of consultations with the United Nations.

"These are difficult talks, and it's impossible to predict what their outcome will be," he said.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell was making a series of calls to a variety of his foreign colleagues in an effort to secure a last minute deal, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. **AFP**



THE former office-building of Dutch KPN Telecom in The Hague, Netherlands, where the International Criminal Court (ICC) is housed. The ICC was officially opened July 1 and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said two more countries had now ratified the Treaty of Rome setting up the court, and that many more would do so. **AFP**

70M may die from AIDS, UN warns

UNITED NATIONS—AIDS will kill 70 million people over the next 20 years, mostly in Africa, unless rich nations step up their efforts to curb the disease, the United Nations said on Tuesday in a report showing the epidemic is still in its early stages.

More than 40 million people worldwide have AIDS or are infected with HIV, the virus that causes the disease, up from 34 million two years ago, and infection rates are climbing, especially in Asia and eastern Europe, said the latest report from UNAIDS, the agency that coordinates UN AIDS programs.

"We haven't reached the peak of the AIDS epidemic yet," Dr. Peter Piot, the UNAIDS executive director, told Reuters in an interview, scotching experts' hopes it would level off. "It's an unprecedented epidemic in human history."

AIDS threatens to wipe out a generation in Africa and destabilize the whole continent, according to the report, released ahead of the 14th International Conference on AIDS which opens next week in Barcelona.

"From a pure medical problem, AIDS has become an issue for economic and social development and even for security," Piot warned, saying the disease was eating away Africa's work force, holding back economic development and aggravating famines.

"The world can't afford a whole continent to be destabilized because of AIDS. It's going to have implications for all continents," Piot said.

AIDS killed a record 3 million people last year—2.2 million in Africa alone—and HIV infected another 5 million worldwide. **Reuters**

GERMANY AIR COLLISION

More than 70 people died, including 52 children, when a Tupolev airliner and a Boeing cargo plane collided in mid air late on Monday night



DHL Worldwide Express cargo plane from Bahrain with two pilots had taken off from Bergamo en route to Brussels

Bashkirian Airlines plane from Moscow with 69 people aboard made stop in Munich before heading for Barcelona

FATAL FINAL MINUTE

Swiss air traffic control say they first warned the Bashkirian Airlines pilots to descend "a good minute" before the crash

Tupolev 154 Flying at 11,500m is warned to descend to 10,670m by Swiss air traffic control

Tupolev 154 After a second warning to descend plane starts to dive

Boeing 757 As the Tupolev starts to dive Boeing pilot reports a warning on his collision-avoidance system and also begins to dive from 11,500m

Boeing 757 Swiss air traffic control did not warn pilots to change altitude

Source: Skyguide

REUTERS

Russians, controllers exchange accusations over mid-air collision

UEBERLINGEN, Germany—Investigators were Wednesday seeking to establish the cause of a freak mid-air collision over southern Germany, as Russian officials and Swiss air traffic controllers traded accusations over who was to blame.

All 71 people aboard the two aircraft—a Russian jet packed with student holidaymakers headed to Spain and a DHL Boeing 757 cargo plane—were killed when they smashed into each other Monday night.

Fifty-two of the 69 dead on the Tupolev Tu-154-passenger plane were children and teenagers, Russian officials said.

The crash apparently occurred as both planes were taking last-minute action to try and avoid one another, and was the worst such air collision since two planes smashed into each other over India in 1996, killing 349 people.

German police said black box flight recorders from both planes had been recovered from the debris, which was strewn over a wide area near Lake Constance on the borders between Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Ekkehard Falk, spokesman for the Friedrichshafen police in southern Germany, said investi-

gators would begin analyzing the information on the cockpit voice and flight data recorders on Wednesday.

Experts from Russia, Switzerland and the United States were also set to join the probe, and relatives of the 69 passengers were also headed to the site of the disaster.

But Russian officials and Swiss air traffic controllers who were monitoring the airspace around the lake were already at odds over the cause of the crash, which occurred when both aircraft dove simultaneously.

"In my opinion, this was the fault of the air controllers," the chief of Bashkirian Airlines, Nikolai Odegov, told reporters in Moscow's Domodedovo airport.

He said the crew had carried out all instructions received from air traffic controllers on the ground.

"It seems that there is a human factor at work here," said a senior official of the Russian transport ministry, Alexander Neradko, without saying who he thought was responsible.

But he added: "But such things do not happen on their own. A number of factors are involved in such accidents, including what happens on the ground." **AFP**

WorldCom survival crucial to US security, says CEO

WASHINGTON—WorldCom chief executive John Sidmore said Tuesday that the survival of his firm is a matter of "national security" but refuses to rule out bankruptcy for the embattled telecom giant.

"We play a vital role in America's telecommunications infrastructure," Sidmore told reporters here in his first public appearance since the discovery of a massive \$3.8 billion mistake in WorldCom books.

Sidmore said that WorldCom is the largest Internet carrier in the world, handling as much as 50 percent of all e-mails in the world, and provides Internet services to over 100 countries and many US government agencies including the Pentagon and State Department.

"We think WorldCom is a very key component of our nation's economy, and communications infrastructure," he said. "Both commercial and national security interests rely on WorldCom's operations continuing without disruption. Dozens of telecom providers and suppliers likely depend on WorldCom's business."

In an opinion column written for the Knight-Ridder Tribune news service, Sidmore said that in addition to efforts to bring those responsible for the accounting problems to justice, "it is equally important to save WorldCom."

"I believe it is in the interest of our national security, American



SIDMORE

consumers and the millions of WorldCom's customers and shareholders to make WorldCom's survival a top priority," he said.

He said that the ripple effect of WorldCom's demise "would put many other telecom companies in jeopardy" and result in a further depression of telecom industry assets.

Sidmore said he could not rule out some form of bankruptcy for the embattled telecom group, but added that the company still has cash in the bank.

"I am not going to stand up here and tell you that there is no way we are going to wind up in bankruptcy of some form, at some point," he told reporters. **AFP**

Around-the-world balloonist breaks record

PORT AUGUSTA, Australia—US millionaire Steve Fossett searched for an outback landing site in Australia on Wednesday after becoming the first solo balloonist to circle the globe nonstop.

But Fossett, who has scaled most of the world's tallest mountains and set numerous sailing and flying records, is already planning his next adventure—flying a glider into the stratosphere.

Fossett, 58, is still flying above the turbulent Southern Ocean near the coast of southern Australia and is expected to land his balloon "Spirit of Freedom" at 0800 GMT (4 p.m. in Manila) somewhere on the edge of the Nullarbor Plain northwest of Adelaide city.

Landing the silver balloon, which is 42 meters tall and 18 meters wide, will be one of the riskiest maneuvers of Fossett's 13-day around-the-world flight, said his mission control in St Louis, Missouri.

Fossett is expected to land "Spirit of Freedom" near the outback town of Woomera, 270 km northwest of Adelaide, and home to one of Australia's illegal migrant detention camps.

The Nullarbor Plain is a moonscape stretch of desert, but Fossett will be hoping to find a few small trees or shrubs to crash into to bring his balloon to a halt.

"He always likes a few trees to crash into to slow him down and

stop him being dragged," spokesman Bert Padelt told Reuters.

As the giant balloon descends it will slow, making it harder to control, while desert thermals during the day could whip up strong, unpredictable winds.

"He will want winds less than 16 km per hour when he comes in to land. The further inland he flies the calmer the winds will be," said Padelt.

"Ideally, he would like an evening landing, just as the sun is setting, when the ground is cooling and winds are easing."

Soon after his landing, Fossett will move ahead with plans next month to fly a glider into the stratosphere over southern New Zealand.

Fossett crossed the finish line of his record-breaking flight at 1340 GMT on Tuesday when he passed 117 degrees east longitude, the same line he began his trip from in far western Australia.

He had flew nearly 31,380 km around the southern hemisphere. "It's been a long trip and I'm really glad to get across," the 58-year-old former Chicago stock trader said from the balloon in remarks piped back to a news conference in St Louis.

As of 0116 GMT Wednesday, Fossett was still off the southwest of Australia at 33 degrees south, 129 degrees east, flying at 7,711 meters and at a speed of 118 kph.

He had covered 32,538 km on his flight. **Reuters**



AMERICAN millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett waves from his balloon as it takes off from Northam, 100 km east of Perth in Western Australia June 19. **REUTERS**

Afghan gov't hits raid, demands US take steps to avoid civilian deaths

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—In an unprecedented statement, the Afghan government demanded Tuesday that the United States take "all necessary measures" to avoid civilian casualties following an air attack in which scores of villagers died.

US troops who had been inspecting the hospital in Kandahar where some of the wounded from the air attack were taken came under fire late Tuesday as they were returning to the American base outside the city, US military spokesman Col. Roger King said. One soldier was wounded in the foot, he added.

In Kabul, the government said President Hamid Karzai "called officials and commanders of the United States forces to his office and strongly advised them of the grave concern and sorrow" over Monday's attack in Uruzgan province, in which the Afghans say 40 civilians were killed and 100 were wounded.

The statement said Karzai, who relied on US support for his rise to power after the collapse of the Taliban, insisted that coalition forces "take all necessary measures to ensure that military activities capture terrorist groups and do not harm innocent Afghan civilians."

Circumstances of the attack remain unclear; a joint US-Afghan investigation team was unable to reach the site Tuesday.

'Legitimate target'

US officials insist American forces were attacking a legitimate target using a B-52 bomber and an AC-130 gunship. Pentagon officials said it appeared gunfire, rather than an errant bomb dropped by the United States, was responsible for the deaths. An AC-130 can fire Gatling guns, cannons and 105 mm howitzers.

At the Pentagon, Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday a US AC-130 gunship in the vicinity fired on "six individual locations that were spread over many kilometers." Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said it was too early to determine what happened.

Despite the uncertainty, Afghan officials were convinced the United States was to blame for what they believe is the latest in a series of "friendly fire" mishaps. It was the first time Afghan authorities at the national level have issued such a strong statement following such an incident.

In Kabul, Foreign Minister Abdullah said coalition military operations against al-Qaida

and Taliban should continue but the rules for launching attacks "should be reviewed to avoid such incidents."

4 villages attacked

Abdullah said four villages were attacked in a pre-dawn raid Monday around the hamlet of Kakarak about 350 km southwest of Kabul. He said 40 civilians were killed—including all 25 members of one family—and 100 people were injured, including celebrants at a wedding.

"Strong measures have to be taken to avoid such further incidents," he said. "This situation has to come to an end. Mistakes can take place, human errors are possible, but our people should be assured that every measure was taken to avoid such incidents."

Abdullah said it was unacceptable for such casualties to become "a pattern."

"There is no explanation that in a country where people have suffered so much under al-Qaida and the Taliban, they continue to suffer as the result of the campaign against al-Qaida," he said.

Karzai met in Kabul on Tuesday with the commander of US forces in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill. Afterward, McNeill said he and Karzai had differing accounts of what had happened, but he would not elaborate.

"It is not part of the parameters of this coalition to attack innocents," McNeill said at Bagram air base north of Kabul. "In this fight against terrorism, the only people who have a track record of attacking innocents are the terrorists themselves."

Amnesty International

In London, Amnesty International called on the United States to release the findings of any investigation. "US-led forces should take sufficient precautions to protect civilians in selecting military objectives," Amnesty said.

The strong reaction by the Afghan government reflects the pressure on Karzai from his fellow Pashtuns who live in areas where US military operations are continuing more than six months after the Taliban's defeat. Many Pashtuns see the continuing war against terrorism as an obstacle to the peace that so many of them yearn for after 23 years of war.

However, Abdullah, the foreign minister, said the government had "no doubts" that US forces were "targeting terrorists" and had re-

There is no explanation that people who have suffered so much under al-Qaida and the Taliban should continue to suffer in the drive against al-Qaida'

ceived information that al-Qaida forces were in the area. Afghan officials say Mullah Mohammed Omar, leader of the Taliban, once preached in the area and may be hiding in the area.

However, some survivors said they were looking to Karzai to prevent them from getting caught in the cross-fire.

"Karzai himself should take charge of the investigation," said Shawali, whose wife Shabibi was wounded Monday. Abdul Qayyum, whose two sons were wounded, said Karzai should personally determine the presence of al-Qaida in an area before permitting the Americans to attack.

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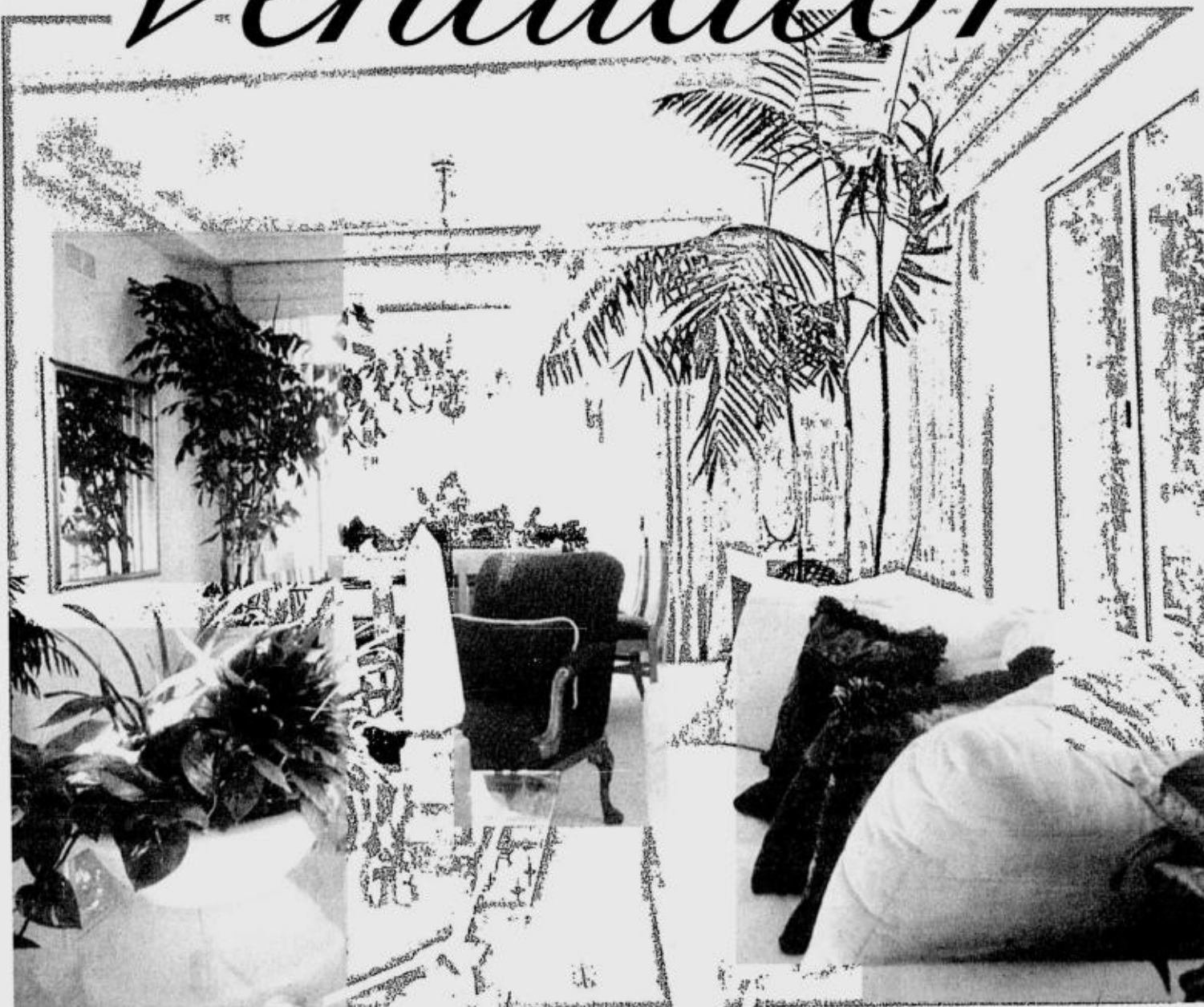
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Western section. Moderate to strong winds blowing from the Southwest will prevail over the Western section of the archipelago.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 26°
Laosog	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy and Rains	HI 29°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Rains	HI 27°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains	HI 28°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Rains	HI 28°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Loyosa, PDI Research/07/04/02

Children vulnerable to kidney illness, too, says DOH

LAOAG CITY—The next time schoolchildren raise their hands for permission to take a leak, teachers must heed. In a recent forum at the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital in Batac town, experts from the National Kidney and Transplant Institute noted that ignoring the urge to urinate is among the common causes of renal diseases.

They said inadequate water supply in the body, excessive intake of protein and calcium-rich foods, exposure to chemicals, prolonged use of drugs and unchecked blood pressure are also among the causes of kidney failure.

Kidney diseases are not limited to the older generation, the Department of Health said, noting that a big number of renal problems, most of which are urinary tract infection cases, were seen in schoolchildren.

The DOH and NKT's joint preventive nephrology project in 1997 found 1.1 million out of 4.7 million schoolchildren to have abnormal urine findings.

The NKT said that among 545,818 public schoolchildren in the Ilocos who were examined from 1994 to 1997, at least 19 percent or 85,489 exhibited abnormality in their urinalysis.

Among the four Ilocos provinces, La Union ranked first with a 26 percent yield of abnormality, followed by Ilocos Sur at 22 percent, Pangasinan at 16 percent and Ilocos Norte at 15 percent.

The region, however, ranked the lowest in incidents of urine abnormality compared to the national average of 24 percent.

The Autonomous Region in Muslim

Mindanao has the highest figure of abnormal urine samples at 34.2 percent where half of the patients tested were discovered to be suffering from various kidney diseases.

During the forum, Dr. Antonio Paraiso, NKT's neurologist, said incidents of kidney failure in the country are estimated to be 7,500 cases a year.

Kidney disease, he said, is the tenth leading cause of death in the Philippines and is a growing problem among developed countries.

The government has adopted a renal disease control program with an annual allocation of P10 million to cover a nationwide program that includes research, advocacy, free clinic and medication.

Patients whose kidneys are severely and permanently damaged can turn to repeated dialysis or renal transplantation.

"Kidney diseases strike patients more severely in developed countries than in developing countries. The trend towards increasing incidents of kidney failure is associated with progress and with changes in lifestyle," Paraiso said.

Incidents of kidney failure in other Asian countries, such as Taiwan and Japan, are estimated to be from 80-100 to 200 new cases per million population.

"Primarily, diabetes and hypertension caused kidney diseases in developed countries whereas, kidney stones (hard deposits in the urinary tract) and infections will most likely lead to renal diseases in developing countries like the Philippines," Paraiso said.

"(But) we have adopted similar lifestyles of developed countries," she said. *Cristina Arzadon and Peter La Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Village polls test of NPA strength

CAMP SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City—The candidates for village chiefs alone in 3,104 barangays in Central Luzon run close to 16,000 while candidates for councilors are about 100,000.

The July 15 elections, however, are not just a contest confined to these hopefuls. In the region's 344 villages where communist rebels are known to operate, it is also a race between government troops on the one hand, and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, on the other hand.

"The CPP and the NPA are strengthening their grassroots

presence and control of the political structures of barangays through the July 15 elections," Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, the Army's Northern Luzon Command chief, told reporters here on Tuesday.

In Northern Luzon's four regions, the NPA has more than 10,000 soldiers to quell about 1,500 fighters from the NPA and its splinter group, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan.

The NPA, throughout its 32 years of waging a guerrilla war, has built up its strength from the barangays through party branches and people's militias.

With the NPA's scope covering now 24 influenced villages (or those with full-blown revolutionary committees) and 320 infiltrated villages (where initial mass organizing work had been done), Central Luzon would prove to be "more problematic" than in three other regions combined in Northern Luzon in the July 15 elections.

To Garcia, that was because

the tack of the rebels continues to be one of "damaging the government from within."

"They want to have political inroads by getting their own barangay captains elected up to 2004. They are fielding their own people or supporting candidates who may not be members of the communist party but they know they can build an alliance with and who perhaps in the past have provided support or sympathy to the NPA," he said.

Located and clustered in the mountainous peripheries of the region, Garcia said the insurgen-

cy-affected areas, also anticipated as election hot spots, were far from the region's urban centers where industries and commerce are concentrated.

He said these areas were identified through seized documents, diskettes and computers and from interrogation of captured rebels.

Compared to Bicol and Southern Tagalog where insurgency is "worst," Garcia said there is a "cause of concern" in Central Luzon because it is a major source of funds by the communists through their "extortion activities." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Woman sues 2 docs, staff for hospital neglect

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The mother of a baby who fell on the floor immediately after coming out of her womb has sued two doctors and two personnel of the government-owned Gov. Celestino Galares Memorial Hospital (GCGMH).

Diosdada Aparilla filed administrative complaint for neglect of duty and incompetence against doctors Sarita Arsua-Matabilas and Rachelle Ranaloja.

Also charged before the Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas based in Cebu City were Virgilia Albunesa and Ma. Lhovella Alabata, personnel of the GCGMH.

Aparilla attached her and her husband's affidavits and medical records to her letter-complaint dated June 21 addressed to Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro.

In her affidavit, Aparilla said her husband, Juan, brought her to the GCGMH on May 30 because she was about to give birth to their fourth child.

About 3 p.m., she was brought to the emergency room where another internal examination was conducted on her. She was then told to wear a pink gown.

Aparilla recalled telling the hospital personnel who gave her the gown that she felt like relieving herself and that her stomach was very painful. But, she added, she was not given any response.

As the pain intensified, Aparilla said she repeatedly shouted for help but she was ignored. She then decided to go out of the labor room and proceeded to the delivery room.

Aparilla said she told the nurse that she was about to give birth. But the nurse told her to walk around because it would take some time before she could give birth.

When the pain worsened, she asked help from a female staff who just brought her to the delivery room where she was made to lie down.

After what she thought was an injection, Aparilla said the personnel left the delivery room without checking on her condition.

She started shouting for help again because the pain was getting worse. Still, nobody paid attention to her. Aparilla said she then felt her baby was coming out.

She desperately tried to hold back the baby by keeping her feet together. Still, the baby came out of her womb and fell on the floor.

Fearing for the life of the baby, Aparilla said she summoned all her strength to stand up and look for her child.

When she could not find the baby, Aparilla went out of the delivery room and saw her husband whom she informed about the incident.

In his affidavit, Juan said several hospital staff immediately proceeded to the delivery room where they eventually found and examined the infant for any possible injuries.

Juan said that as his wife was being carried on a stretcher, he noticed a foot-long umbilical cord still stuck between her legs.

Quirino execs declare state of calamity due to drought

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Officials of Quirino have declared their province under a state of calamity due to the long drought that left parched farmlands and wilted crops, regional disaster coordinating council (RDCC) reports here said.

Elvira Calina, regional civil defense officer, said the province's calamity status has enabled officials to release at least P4.3 million from Quirino's calamity fund.

The money will finance anti-drought projects and will be used for programs in preparation for the El Niño, which is expected to hit the country in October.

The declaration of Quirino as a calamity area was contained in a provincial board resolution approved by Quirino Gov. Pedro Bacani.

Calina said Quirino's production losses have reached at least P18.8 million, covering 3,320 hectares of damaged corn farms.

She said the hard-hit areas were Maddela and Aglipay towns.

"Aside from Quirino, (local officials in Cagayan Valley) have been activating their anti-El Niño task forces through the provincial disaster coordinating councils," she said.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley police director and RDCC chair, said the RDCC members have planned to rehabilitate irrigation systems in the region due to the P113.8 million production losses blamed on drought in the region.

The council members will also conduct cloud-seeding operations. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



PAINTED

It's the time of the year when residents of Tacloban, Leyte don't mind dirtying up their faces. These merry-makers take to Tacloban's streets to celebrate the Pintados Kasadya, a feast for Sto. Niño, July 1.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Farmers alleged harassment on land in Danding hacienda

BACOLOD CITY—Six farmers have claimed that security guards "violently" dispersed them on Sunday shortly after they took over a portion of a property owned by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in Hiniangan town, Negros Occidental.

The farmers, who claimed to be beneficiaries of land reform on the property, said they started plowing the field when about 40 guards, accompanied by some Hiniangan policemen, harassed and forcibly removed them from the land.

Francis Levin Talde, 39, said he and his five companions had the right to farm in the 1,200-

hectare Hacienda Balatong located in Barangay Aranda, Hiniangan, about 70 kilometers south of Bacolod.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), he claimed, had awarded each of them 2.5 hectares of the hacienda in 1998.

The other claimants were Bobby Berte, Rosalinda Molina, Marianito Josilva, Pablito Tala-tala and Panso Pesales. All six belonged to ECJ Farm Workers Alliance in Negros (Efan).

Rorie Fajardo of the Task Force Mapalad told a news conference on Monday that farmers entered the hacienda about 11 a.m. on

Sunday. They were joined by about 150 landless farm workers in the nearby area.

The group took over about 10 hectares and began planting palay, corn, banana, and vegetables on the vacant lot, she added.

Fajardo said 10 armed guards approached the group and demanded permits for their takeover. The guards were with about 400 Cojuangco farmers led by Pedro Bedayo and some Hiniangan policemen.

The farmers, she added, were forced by the guards to leave the property.

But Bedayo of the ECJ Farm-

workers Agrarian Reform Multipurpose Cooperative denied the farmers' allegation, saying the group was not harassed.

He said the group "peacefully" left the property at 9 p.m., about 10 hours after they "illegally" entered the property.

The group, he added, decided to leave after the police talked to them. A pastor and several Catholic and Aglipayan priests also tried to talk to the group, said Bedayo. "No force or violence was used," he said.

Bedayo said the six farmers had not been awarded titles by the DAR. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Dengue claims life, strikes 105 in Iloilo province

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Cases of dengue fever increased dramatically last month, ending the period with one death and 105 persons stricken with the dreaded viral diseases.

The Provincial Health Office (PHO) noted that of the 105 dengue cases monitored since January, 81 were recorded from June 2 to 30. The highest of these were tabulated in the last week of June at 44 cases.

Provincial health officer Carmen Bayate said the lone fatality

was identified as Rowena Arquio-la, 21, of Barangay Tabugon, Dingle town, 45 kilometers north of here. She died in the third week of June.

Of the total cases recorded last month, 42 were minors, the youngest was four month-old Penuel Jim Anoché from Sta. Barbara town.

The oldest was Ofelia Villalobos, 54, of Barangay Pandan, Dingle town.

Despite the marked increase in the number of dengue cases, Bayate allayed fears of an epidemic, saying the cases were distributed

in 32 towns and one city and were reported from January to June.

She added dengue cases usually surge during the rainy season.

The towns of Janiway and Badiangan had the most dengue cases at 11 each. Dingle town was second with six dengue cases.

Among the towns with reported dengue cases are Sta. Barbara, 4 cases; Miagao, 5; Guimbal, 5; Alimodian, 2; San Enrique, 2; Ajuy, 3; Concepcion 2; Cabatuan 2; Barotac Nuevo, 5; Oton, 4; Leon, 5; San Dionisio, 2; Duenas, 5; Calinog, 2; Tigbauan, 3; Bin-gawan, 2; New Lucena, 5; and

San Joaquin, 3.

One case each was reported in the towns of Anilao, Dumangas, Lambunao, San Rafael, Pototan, Mina, Pavia, Maasin, Zaranga, Lemery and San Miguel. Passi City had five dengue cases.

Dengue virus comes from Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, which are known to breed only in clear stagnant water and bite only in early morning and late afternoon.

They usually hide in cisterns, jars, vases, open drains, tin cans and open tires, among others. Health authorities have been

monitoring cases of dengue following the onset of the rainy season.

They urged households to clean their surroundings and other places where dengue-carrying mosquitoes lurk.

Last month, the province launched the "Four O'clock Habit," regular cleaning of breeding grounds of mosquitoes.

Iloilo had the worst experience in 1997 when 50 children died and more than a thousand fell ill from dengue. The rash of patients had strained the resources and personnel private and state-run hospitals.

DENR stops operations of toxic waste handling firm

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspended the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) of a company that has been dumping toxic industrial wastes in two Bulacan towns since September last year.

Leonardo Sibbaluca, DENR regional executive director, issued two cease-and-desist orders against the Enviro-Means Industry Inc. (EMII).

Both orders, signed on June 25, were enforced on Tuesday and covered the company's two sites in Barangay Sipat in Plaridel and Barangay Patubig in Marilao.

Sibbaluca cited the firm's "non compliance" with the Philippines' Environmental Impact Statement System Law (Presidential Decree 1586), Philippine pollution control law (PD 984) and Toxic Substances and Hazardous Waste Control Act (Republic Act 6969).

He referred to the EMI's "illegal transport, improper management and disposal of hazardous wastes and unsanitary operations" as reasons for the ECC cancellation.

Another basis for the suspension was the company's disregard for the commitments it made in technical conferences with the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau last Feb. 6, Sibbaluca said.

Since then, it was learned that the EMI had failed to submit an inventory of hazardous wastes, an interim management plan, and a management plan for spillage on soil.

It had not also presented an abandonment plan for its Marilao site and had not put up an environmental guarantee fund for the cleanup.

The firm was ordered to pay the remaining balance of a fine amounting to P160,000 last Feb. 6. The EMB central office also imposed a penalty in relation to RA 6969 but did not specify what this was. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DAR says NGO lying on banana land feud

A LONG shot.

This was how Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza described the threat aired by leaders of the non-government organization Unorka that they would file "gross negligence" charges against him and President Macapagal-Arroyo for distributing 1,548 hectares of land to 2,513 farmers and beneficiaries in Davao del Norte last Monday.

Braganza, in a statement, said the NGO leaders lied to media when they alleged that the land distribution in Davao del Norte should not have taken place since the Tagum Development Agricultural Co. (Tadeco) property still has a pending case before the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, which the President chairs.

"This NGO does not even check their facts for accuracy. We have distributed 1,684 hectares to 2,583 farmers-beneficiaries, not 1,584 hectares to 2,513 beneficiaries," Braganza said in the statement.

He said that the 1,684-hectares of land distributed by the President do not belong to the Tadeco

alone, but also to other landowners from Davao Oriental, Davao City and Compostela Valley, whose property were covered by agrarian reform.

The Tadeco land, he added, accounts for only 274 hectares that the President distributed to 760 agrarian reform beneficiaries in Davao del Norte.

Braganza said contrary to the allegations by Unorka, the case involving the selection and identification of beneficiaries in the Tadeco property is pending with the DAR under-secretary for operations and support services and not before the PARC.

"I do not know why these NGO leaders have decided to mislead the public by feeding lies to the media," the DAR chief said.

Braganza clarified that under DAR Administrative Order No. 9, series of 1998, which guides the department in distributing deferred commercial farms, DAR has the authority to generate and distribute Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) to agrarian reform beneficiaries

pending appeal from the landowners or farmers.

He insisted that there was no basis for the charge of gross negligence on the part of DAR because the generation, issuance and distribution of CLOAs was done in accordance with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and its implementing rules and regulations.

"There is no truth to the allegation made by Unorka that the Tadeco case is pending before the PARC or the Office of the President," Braganza said.

What is pending before the Office of the President, Braganza said, was the appeal of active workers of Worldwide Agricultural Development Corp. (Wadecor) not to include 193 retrenched workers affiliated with Unorka in the list of CARP beneficiaries.

Braganza, in a resolution dated June 18, 2001, affirmed an earlier decision issued by former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales directing the inclusion of the 193 workers as agrarian reform beneficiaries of Wadecor.

Measles kills 7 children, takes 14 others to GenSan hospital

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Seven children died while 14 others were confined in the government-run City Integrated Hospital Services when a measles epidemic struck a remote village here.

Dr. Fidel Penamante, department head of the City Integrated Health Services (CIHS) of the city government, told reporters that they learned about the measles outbreak only on Monday last week.

The epidemic, Penamante said, occurred in Datal Salvan and Bagong Silang, all part of Barangay San Jose, a far-flung village located near the boundary of General Santos and T'boli town in South Cotabato.

Majority of the residents in the affected areas were members of the B'laan and T'boli tribes.

Out of the 14 victims who were hos-

pitalized, five are still undergoing treatment at the CIHS pediatric ward.

They were identified as Donie and Jonie Pullan, Jon Rey Dasan, Manilyn Danogan and Daily Colan.

The CIHS identified the rest of the victims as Jernel Limbo, Genita Tet, Wilson Batna, Jimuel Kilam and sisters Malila and Meralyn Tayal.

Penamante cited poor sanitary condition in the area, as well as the failure of the parents of the victims to have their kids immunized, as main reasons for the measles outbreak.

The CIHS chief said appropriate measures had already been taken by his office to stop the epidemic.

The CIHS, he said, was able to immunize 48 children when it conducted an immunization drive in the affected area last week. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Fight over fishing ground reaches appointments body

By Mei Magsino
Balayan, Batangas

WHILE small and commercial fishermen fight for space in the delineated 15-kilometer municipal waters, a bigger trouble brews between Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval Sr. and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez over the same issue.

Sandoval, whose family is into commercial fishing and who sits in the Commission on Appointments, has been strongly opposing the confirmation of Alvarez's position, citing the secretary's issuance of Department Administrative Order No. 17 (DAO 17).

The order prohibits commercial fishing within the 15-kilometer municipal waters, the fishing area of small fishermen. Sandoval said this had affected the lives of commercial fishermen who, he pointed out, are also poor and small fishermen.

"Before DAO 17, commercial fishing boats, which are mostly pump boats owned by small fishermen, could go fishing near Corregidor, but now, they have to go as far as the China Sea," he said. He noted that 85 to 90 percent of commercial fishing boats are three-ton pump boats.

Guideline
Alvarez issued DAO 17 on June 13, 2001, setting the guidelines for delineating and delimiting the municipal waters as part of government efforts to protect the rights and welfare of small fishermen from big commercial companies that are fishing in areas defined by Republic Act No. 8550 or the Fisheries Code of 1998.

The areas include streams, lakes, inland bodies of water within the municipality which are not included in the protected areas defined under RA 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law.

These also cover public forests, timberland, forest or fishery reserves, and marine waters bounded by two lines drawn perpendicular to the general coastline from points where the boundary of the municipality touch the sea at low tide, and a line parallel to the coastline, including offshore islands and 15

kilometers from the shore.

"Congressman Sandoval has been blocking my appointment from the start. It is obvious that he has vested interest to stop my appointment and to abolish DAO 17," Alvarez said.

"As the representative of the people of Palawan, I'm sure the people didn't elect him to serve his vested interest. If he abolishes DAO 17, that would create the most terrible effect on small fishermen."

Last year, the secretary said, the first thing Sandoval did was to block the budget of the DENR.

Small

Tessie Lopez, program coordinator of the nongovernment Anak-Balayan, defined small fishermen as those with boats weighing less than three tons (gross) and those who do not have high-tech fishing gears and equipment that could be used to over-fish in the municipal waters.

"A small fisherman cannot afford a commercial fishing boat. We shouldn't treat a three-ton pump boat as belonging to a small fisherman if its catch from the municipal waters reaches 200 banyeras (tubs). That would leave nothing to real small fishermen who get only a kilo or two of fish," Lopez said.

In Balayan, Calatagan and all other coastal towns of Batangas, a night's yield of commercial fishing boats could reach several tons of fish that are equivalent to a year's catch by small fishermen.

"What would happen to our children whom we work hard for?" Pablo Caraig, Anak Balayan chair, said, "They have nothing to eat, and no energy anymore to go to school. And if they go to school, their brains cannot function properly due to malnutrition."

"We are still hoping that the DAO 17 won't be abolished," Caraig said. "We have suffered terribly from the recent fish kill and the (encroachment of) commercial fishing boats upon our waters. It's like grabbing from our hands the food we are about to eat."

According to Lopez, the small fishermen of Balayan see hope in DAO 17 since they are able to report to the Coast Guard commercial fishing boats that violate the law. Caraig said the small fishermen incurred the ire of owners of commercial fishing boat lately for tipping them off to authorities.

Complaint

On June 27, officers of the 400-strong Anak-Balayan filed a complaint against Sandoval before the House Committee on Ethics. In its letter, it asked Rep. Antonio Abaya, the committee chair, not to include Sandoval in the Commission on Appointments because of his "vested interest," pointing out that Sandoval's family is engaged in commercial fishing.

"DAO 17 is the only protection of the small fishermen," Caraig said. "And if someone like Sandoval sits in the Commission on Appointments and prevents the appointment of Secretary Alvarez because of his vested interest, we are here to stop that."

"If we can't fight them at sea, maybe by land. We can again picket in the CA and drive the man (Sandoval) . . . out of that office. There, we might stand a chance," Lopez said.

The biggest shipyard in Navotas is Sandoval Shipyards Inc., which is engaged in the building and repair of commercial fishing vessels, she said. The shipyard is owned by the Sandoval family of Palawan.

Both the districts of Navotas (Metro Manila) and Palawan where Representatives Vicente and Federico Sandoval belong to are havens of commercial fishermen.

"I'm not in the fishing business, but if it so happens that my son and my niece are in the business, that is not my business," Vicente Sandoval said in a phone interview. He said he has divested from the business since he be-



LIKE all other fishermen in Balayan and Calatagan towns in Batangas, Cipriano Mendoza, 53, catches only two kilos of "galunggong" in a night of fishing.

MEI MAGSINO

came a congressman 10 years ago and is not into any fishing ventures now.

He admitted that his son, Ricky, has been having problems with DAO 17. "Ricky is into that business. And most commercial fishermen go to him for help because of DAO 17."

His niece, Marylou Sandoval Pe Tiu Lim, is listed as owner and treasurer of Mega Fishing Corp., manufacturer of Mega Sardines, according to records of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Problems

Sandoval said that during the penultimate hearing of the CA, over 1,000 fishermen from Navotas, Bulacan and Malabon protested Alvarez's appointment as DENR secretary.

"RA 8550 is mandated by the secretary of the Department of Agriculture, not the DENR secretary," Sandoval said.

"What Alvarez didn't know is that 90 percent of all commercial fishermen are small fishermen. *Gusto lang magpalapad ng papel kasi gusto maging senador* (He just wants to score points so he could run for senator)."

"At the CA, an ethical problem may rise if I am involved in commercial fishing. But I am not," Sandoval said. "Before (its) . . . second to the last hearing, Secretary Alvarez even offered me (his plan) to withdraw DAO 17 if I do not oppose his appointment. If he denies that, I challenge him that we both undergo a lie detector test anytime."

Sandoval said he did not want any trouble. "But he (Alvarez) should not meddle with the Commission on Appointments. We are such an independent body that (not) even the President can dictate (upon)," the lawmaker said.

The lie detector challenge

By Mei Magsino

LIAR, liar. Thus reacted Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval's challenge for him to undergo a lie detector test.

"Congressman Sandoval should be the one to undergo a lie detector test because he is a liar," Alvarez said. "The only time I was able to talk to him was June last year when he tried to block my department's budget," he said.

Sandoval has dared the secretary to take the test with him to prove if he really offered to withdraw Department Administrative Order No. 17 (DAO 17) in exchange for approval by the lawmaker, as a member of the powerful Commission on Appointments, of his appointment as DENR chief.

DAO 17, which Alvarez issued on June 13, 2001, delineated the 15-kilometer area from the shore as municipal waters where only small fishermen could fish.

"(During) the first and last time we talked personally last year, Sandoval told me, 'Ayos na kami, bakit ginugulo mo pa?' (We are all right now, why are you still messing things up?), but I told him that I have to protect the welfare of the small fishermen," Alvarez said.

He noted the meager catch of the small fishermen from the municipal waters where commercial fishing boats have been encroaching. The situation has affected not only the livelihood of small fishermen but also their children, he said.

Sandoval has remarked that Alvarez should stay out of the fisheries problem since this was the business of the Department of Agriculture, not the DENR.

"DAO 17 was signed by the Department of Agriculture, the DENR, the National Anti-Poverty Commission and all the departments that will be affected and can help our poor fishermen and ensure that they get a fair share of the seas," Alvarez said.

"We just cannot brush aside the problems of our small fishermen," he said. "I will fight for DAO 17 until the end. That's the only protection of our small fishermen, and I intend to fight for their rights."

Palawan celebrates 100 years of civil governance

By Gerald P. Ticke
Puerto Princesa City

PALAWAN celebrated its 100 years of civil governance by recognizing the leadership of 128 former officials of the province in the past century.

Fourteen of the officials served as representatives to Congress, including incumbent Rep. Vicente Brown Sandoval (first district), 18 were governors, six vice governors, and 90 provincial board members.

The civil government of Palawan was established on June 23, 1902 after the Filipino-American War. The province was then called Paragua by the Spanish colonizers and the seat of government was in Cuyo town.

Two years later, the name Paragua was changed to Palawan.

First to serve as governor was Maj. John Brown, while the first Filipino governor was Vicente Sandoval.

Palawan has emerged as one of the primary tourist destinations in the country, boasting of beautiful white sand beaches and other scenic spots. It is also considered the Philippines' last frontier.

To drum up the province's role as a major eco-tourism destination, the provincial government marked its centennial with weeklong activities from June 16 to June 23.

Dubbed "Baragatan 2002," the celebration carried the theme "Palawan: Kasaysayan, Kultura, Likas-Yaman at



DANCERS take to the streets during Palawan's centennial celebration dubbed "Baragatan."

JOAN BONDOD

Pamahalaan sa Agos ng Panahon 1902-2002" (Palawan: History, Culture, Natural Resources and Government from 1902 to 2002). Daily programs and entertainment activities were held to showcase the culture of Palawan.

Baragatan is derived from the Cuyano

word *bagat*, which means to meet or gather. Thus, Baragatan is a convergence of Palawan's ethnolinguistic inhabitants, who include the Tagbanua, Pala'wan, Tau't Bato, Ken-uy, Batak, Cuyunon, Agutaynon and Gagayenon.

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, who was

guest of honor during the opening ceremony, lauded the efforts of the provincial government and the Palawenos for their unity, as well as the "warmth and hospitality and your very kind gesture that you showed."

"Now that we are here to celebrate the

Baragatan, I can see your unity in preparation for this celebration. I hope your unity will continue in the coming years and I also hope that we in the Senate will learn from this unity of the Palawenos," Legarda said.

Gov. Joel T. Reyes expressed optimism about the province's development, saying the celebration would usher in new hopes.

"The commemoration of 100 years will play a big role in the history of the commencement of development in the province," he said.

On opening day, a float parade was held, participated in by the province's 23 municipalities and Puerto Princesa City, as well as different private organizations. It also presented the 24 candidates for the Centennial Mutya ng Palawan contest, who represented each municipality and the city.

Actresses Assunta de Rossi and Jolina Magdangal also graced the parade and entertained the crowd with a special presentation at night. Salbakuta, a popular group behind such hit songs as "Stupid Love" and "Di Ako Karapat-dapat," added life to the program.

Every town displayed its products at the trade fair.

Liesel Sangalang was crowned Centennial Mutya ng Palawan on June 22. She also won the Miss Puerto Beauty Pageant in March.

On June 23, the much-awaited street-dancing contest saw 17 entries from different towns and private institutions competing for the P300,000 first prize. Taytay pocketed the grand prize. Second was Quezon town, while Holy Trinity College came third.

Cimatu term extension continues to draw flak

From page A1

new post." But he said the term extension was "another story."

Opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara did not mince words. Cimatu has become an "overstaying general" because of the extension, Angara said.

Gidaya, also a former defense undersecretary and ambassador to Israel and South Korea, said the extension was "making many officers unhappy—those who are qualified and those who are awaiting promotion. I feel that it's not good and it's likely to demoralize a number of people in the Armed Forces."

In extending Cimatu's term, Angara said he believed the President was "ill-advised, which is no surprise because she seems to be hostage to her advisers. For the post of AFP chief of staff the President can really appoint anyone, even a colonel. But why appoint someone who has only two or three months left in the service? Even if he's the most senior officer, there's a deeper selection or she could go down the roster and pick someone who can serve out the full three year-term. It's a question of wisdom rather than technicality."

Grumblings within the military could have been avoided had the President reconsidered her decision, said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, another opposition solon. Biazon also once served as AFP chief of staff for a few months.

Plain rumors

The new AFP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, was quick to dismiss the reported grumblings as "plain rumors."

"As far as we're concerned there are no such things. We really haven't heard anything of the sort. We just take them at face value. We treat them as rumors until validated and verified. We have our intelligence office that looks into these things. None of those reports have been verified. But if there's really something to it, then we'll confront them," Purificacion said.

He said that in the AFP or in any organization for that matter, "there might be a few disgruntled people but this atmosphere does not pervade in the whole organization. The moment a single dysfunction occurs, the whole organization will surely be affected and we don't want that to happen."

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate

committee on national defense, said that "when the law on extension is vague, it would be more prudent to reflect on the events of history than take unprecedented courses of action."

"The series of extensions was a Marcos policy during the martial law years and was the factor that caused restlessness in the AFP ranks that led to Edsa I and the series of coup attempts thereafter," he emphasized.

During his term, Marcos kept generals according to their usefulness. Sometime in the late 1970s he retired 13 generals. But in the next reshuffle, he extended the duty of seven generals, including Fabian Ver and Fidel Ramos.

President's style

"The Constitution says that the moment a fellow is made AFP chief of staff his term can no longer be extended," Giday said. "Being chief of staff is a tenure. This case can be an irritant."

Angara opined the term extension was a "reflection of the Chief Executive's lack of respect for the rule of law which is dangerous."

The administration, Angara charged, is "frustrating young and competent officers who cannot get

promoted because of cronyism."

"They may not actually openly revolt but it can be the cause of grave unrest and demoralization," he warned.

"Obviously, she has no respect for tradition. She tends to disregard procedures. Of course, she has the final say but there are procedures that you follow. Those processes are intended to make for a sounder decision," Angara added.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former coup plotter and to date RAM's most famous officer, said, "the so-called presidential prerogatives are exercised to excess" sometimes.

The unpopular practice of term extensions "should be avoided. It may be beneficial to one person but it will adversely affect others in the military," Honasan said.

"They have multiplier effects," according to RAM spokesperson Col. Reynaldo Samaco. He explained that "each and every officer has already programmed his career, the result of careful planning. The same with when he'll get married and starts raising a family. Now, if you bring term extension and other distortions, their plans can go awry."

Another RAM leader, Navy Capt.

Proceso Maligalig, said Cimatu's extension was "something that is against the rules we had previously defined. It's a principled stand we've taken," said Maligalig, now president of the state-owned Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Baseco).

Macapagal's prerogative

AFP officers interviewed by the *Inquirer* stressed they were not questioning Ms. Macapagal's prerogative to pick Cimatu to replace Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who retired on May 20.

The 15-member Agfo Board of Trustees issued on May 6 a resolution supporting Cimatu's appointment. Aside from Giday, other retired generals who signed the resolution included Mamerto Bocanegra, Paterno Lomongo, Rodrigo Gutang, Jaime Echeverria, Felix Brawner and Rosalino Alquiza as well as retired commodores Ismael Aparri and Artemio Arugay, now head of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office.

Cimatu, who earned the sobriquet "Gen. Pacman" for conquering more than 40 camps of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front during his tour of Mindanao, is "quite popular among the rank and file. No doubt about that," said a middle-

ranked officer based at Camp Aguinaldo.

Agfo trustee Alquiza said, however, that he supported Cimatu's extension. He explained that once the general was appointed AFP chief, Cimatu was no longer compulsorily retireable on his 56th birthday. In a statement sent to national dailies, Alquiza, also the executive director of the PMA Alumni Association, said, "Section 3 of RA 8186 had amended PD 1638 in so far as the AFP chief of staff is concerned."

"A sitting chief of staff is no longer compulsorily retireable at age 56 but upon completion of three years unless sooner terminated by the President. Upon reaching age 56, he does not have to be extended but merely allowed to continue in his position as the President pleases. On the other hand, even before reaching 56 or completing three years, a chief of staff can be relieved by the President pursuant to Section 4 of RA 8186," Alquiza said.

Cimatu, commissioned on March 22, 1970 as Army second lieutenant, would have served as AFP chief for only 45 days if his term had not been extended by Malacañang.

P6,500 worth of crispy pata

From page A1

of crispy pata (deep-fried pig's legs) was ordered, but he did not indulge.

That's according to actor Rudy Fernandez, who, in a testimony yesterday before the Sandiganbayan Special Division, also declared that coffee, tea and soda were the only drinks served at the "late dinner" that he hosted for his friend Jinggo on June 11 at the Makati Medical Center (MMC).

Fernandez swore there was no wine or beer—and there was no drinking spree, as had been reported—that night when he picked up the tab of P26,653.40. He said he even ordered fresh milk for himself just before the affair ended at around 12:30 a.m.

The division hearing the plunder case against Jinggo, ex-mayor of San Juan, and his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, yesterday took the time to look into a letter-complaint of one Leoncio de Mesa, who had invited the court's attention to Jinggo's alleged drinking parties at the MMC's Floating Island restaurant.

The "concerned citizen," with address at the University of the

Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, said Jinggo should be returned to his and his father's quarters at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) while the plunder case was being heard.

De Mesa said that Jinggo's physician, Roberto Anastacio, should explain "why he fooled the Sandiganbayan" by exaggerating the ex-mayor's condition to justify confinement at the MMC, and that the court should ask the Philippine Medical Association to impose appropriate sanctions on the cardiologist.

Watching

"The people are watching and will not be fooled," said De Mesa, who attached to his letter a clipping of *Inquirer* business columnist Victor Agustin's "Cocktales" column in the paper's June 17 issue.

An item in the column said Jinggo was a guest at a "press conference" hosted by Fernandez at the MMC restaurant on the night of June 11.

The restaurant was reportedly closed to the public and hospital staff that night, Agustin reported.

"The strange thing about the presscon," Agustin added, "was that it lasted until the next morn-

ing—the 24-hour restaurant was still closed even for customers who wanted coffee at 7 a.m.—with the restaurant staff even seeing collecting what looked like empty bottles of red wine after what turned out to be a boisterous all-night affair."

Rene Saguisag, a former member of the Estradas' defense team, earlier said Jinggo had denied the allegations "flat out."

Prospero Crescini, the Estradas' counsel de officio, said the "anonymous" complaint filed by De Mesa appeared to be an attempt to poison the mind of the court in light of Jinggo's application for bail.

"It is aimed at fueling hatred against Jinggo," Crescini said.

Fernandez was presented by the defense panel to attest to the receipt issued by the MMC restaurant showing that no alcoholic drinks were ordered and served at the dinner.

Initially, Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario said there was no need to call Fernandez to the witness stand. But the defense panel insisted, saying the actor would prove that there was no drinking binge at the affair.

'Diskarte'

Fernandez testified that it was

his idea to hold the dinner at the MMC's third-floor restaurant after the premiere of his movie "Diskarte" at a nearby mall cinema.

"We were hoping that we could be joined by Mayor Estrada," Fernandez said. He said his secretary made reservations at the restaurant at 6 p.m., and he was able to invite Jinggo at 7 p.m.

The actor said that his party arrived at the restaurant at past 9 p.m., and that Jinggo emerged from his ninth-floor room and joined them at past 10, escorted by a lone policeman.

In all, there were 35 guests at the dinner, including actress Ara Mina, other movie personalities, their aides and drivers, Fernandez said.

Replying to questions from the prosecution, Fernandez said Jinggo did not drink any alcoholic beverage or eat fatty food like crispy pata.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto pointed out that while the restaurant's menu and receipt did not list any alcoholic beverage, it was possible that wine or beer could have been brought in.

But Jinggo's chief police security, Chief Insp. Wilson Ramiro,

testified that he did not see any alcoholic drink being served that night.

Cardiologist Anastacio testified that Jinggo's condition had become "relatively stable" since he was taken to the MMC on May 16 after complaining of rectal bleeding and hypertension.

But Anastacio said he would not yet recommend that Jinggo—who, he said, was afflicted with the heart disorder myocardial infarction—be returned to the VMMC.

"I don't mean to demean the VMMC, but the Makati Medical Center perhaps is better equipped for monitoring my patient's condition," he said, adding that there was "still something wrong" with Jinggo's blood chemistry.

'Happy'

Anastacio said drinking and smoking were a strict no-no for his patient.

"We have been consistent with him," Anastacio said. "His weight went down."

The doctor also said that while Jinggo "looks better and very happy" now than before, this could not serve as a basis for discharging him from the MMC.

"I'd like to observe him in a hos-

pital where there is a support system," Anastacio added. "I'm his doctor and (it will be) my responsibility if anything happens to him."

Desierto said that from Anastacio's testimony, "we got the impression that the situation of his patient has improved, and there is no longer the need for continuing confinement at the (MMC)."

Besides, that will be more expensive in the long run," the Ombudsman said, adding that Jinggo's condition could be adequately addressed at the VMMC.

Desierto said the prosecution would seek the appointment of an independent physician to examine Jinggo. The prosecution also asked the Sandiganbayan to summon the ex-mayor's clinical charts at the MMC for future reference.

But Jinggo's mother, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, said the prosecution's insistence that he be immediately brought back to the VMMC despite his serious condition demonstrated the supposed heartless nature of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

"This government will be held responsible if anything happens to my son and my husband, who remain in detention for purely political reasons," the senator said.

No ugly American this Boone to the Filipino people

From page A1

some decades back, this is because Schirmer descended from the American frontiersman, Daniel Boone, and was named after him.

Schirmer, now 87, was born on Feb. 22, 1915. As he had wryly noted, "Showing a patriotic impulse in embryo, I chose Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday, to make my appearance."

But his type of patriotism would manifest itself in a way different from what most Americans and his government were familiar with. Boone—as he was called by his Filipino and American friends—strongly opposed and fought the interventionist policies and practices of the US government, especially as these applied to the Philippines.

In the early 1970s, when opposition to the Marcos dictatorship was not yet fashionable, Boone had already been supporting Filipinos who were in exile in the US as a result of their opposition to martial law.

In November 1973, Boone and 60 other concerned Americans and Filipino-Americans from Chicago, New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, Connecticut and Philadelphia, founded the organization Friends of the Filipino People (FFP).

Perhaps as a reminder of the true ideals that America should stand for, FFP was established in Philadelphia, where the US declared its independence from Britain and adopted its own Constitution in 1789.

After he retired as professor from Boston University, Boone led the American movement that opposed his government's support for the Marcos dictatorship.

The FFP joined other US-based Filipino groups like the Katipunan ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Movement for a Free Philippines and Anti-Martial Law Coalition. The groups informed Americans about human rights violations in the Philippines and worked to stop US military assistance and political support for Marcos.

US-based Filipino environmental engineer and activist Dr. Jorge Emmanuel remembers those days: "To see an old man working feverishly in the FFP office, folding pamphlets, licking hundreds of stamps, answering phone calls, and working late into the evenings with such

intensity gave us so much hope in the face of overwhelming odds. He inspired both Filipinos and Americans alike."

Boone took part in anti-Marcos demonstrations and helped lobby in the US Congress for an end to American collaboration with the dictatorial regime.

Years later, during the Aquino administration, he and his organization played an important role in putting pressure on the US government to respect the Sept. 16, 1991 decision of the Philippine Senate rejecting a proposed treaty that would have extended the stay of the US military bases in the country.

House meetings

In his Cambridge, Massachusetts home, which he shares with his wife, Peggy, the Harvard-educated professor would invite Filipinos to simple dinners in "house meetings," exchanging ideas with them in a veritable smorgasbord of insights on how to improve the conditions of working people in the US and the Philippines.

The Schirmer's book-crammed home on Gerry Street was a house brewing with intellectual fermentation. The couple was host to a stream of activists, exiles and graduate students who visited Boston during the Marcos years—including the late Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., Sen. Jose W. Diokno and Sr. Mariano Dimaranan of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

In the early 1980s, the Schirmers moved to the FFP's national office in Washington D.C. and shared living quarters with Charito Planas, then the leading woman opponent of Marcos in exile. (At that time, Planas was supporting her political activism in the US by selling and delivering pizzas.)

Unlike many Filipinos who used their Harvard education to simply advance their careers and make life better for themselves, Boone used his world-class education to help a country thousands of miles away from his own.

It would shame many Filipinos to know that Boone spent many years as a full-time activist dedicated to the advancement of Philippine freedom, democracy and sovereignty. Whether it was on the issue of the Marcos dictatorship,

the US military bases, the Balikatan military exercises, toxic waste contamination, or Amerasian children, Boone was in solidarity with the Filipino people's struggle and at the forefront of it in the United States.

Philippines and Vietnam

Boone said his interest in the Philippines began when he was a scholar in the 1960s, "when I was going after a Ph.D. in US history."

His thesis topic was the Anti-Imperialist League, an American organization that led to a massive opposition to US conquest and colonization of the Philippines at the beginning of the 20th century. (So influential was the league that when the US Senate voted in 1899 on the Treaty of Paris—an agreement where defeated Spain sold the Philippines to the US for \$20 million—it won only by one vote.)

But Boone had a political motivation for his thesis theme. At that time, he was one of the increasing numbers of Americans opposed to the Vietnam War. He had "hoped a study of popular opposition to a previous imperial adventure would contribute to the movement against the Vietnam War."

In his study of Philippine-US history, Boone was impressed by what he called "the courageous fight the Filipinos have waged against US domination." His work would open the door to "one of the richest and meaningful experiences" of his life: participation and leadership in the Philippine-US solidarity movement to strengthen democratic policies in both countries.

His thesis was published as a book, "Republic or Empire: American Resistance to the Philippine War," and came out in 1972, the year Marcos declared martial law.

Quickly, anti-Marcos exiles in the US who read it came to see him. They told Boone that while it was very good for him to have recorded his government's past misdeeds in the Philippines, he should get involved in the present. They suggested he join them in opposing his country's economic and military support for the Marcos dictatorship.

Raising people's awareness

In his distinct Bostonian accent, Boone would speak tirelessly in defense of Philippine sovereignty

against US intervention. He would also write about his government's detrimental policies in the Philippines. Many of his articles and speeches carried the same theme: that US policies must be critically studied and those detrimental to the interests of both Filipinos and Americans should be opposed.

He took pains to make Filipinos and Americans understand that the basic interests of both peoples are the same, but it is the interests of corporate America, the US defense establishment, and global capital that continue to dominate much of US policies and US-Philippine relations.

But Boone took a step further: he was a leading figure in US-based campaigns and networks like the Campaign Against Military Intervention in the Philippines in 1983 and the Campaign Against US Military Bases in the Philippines in 1986.

He helped raise the awareness of American churches so that they, too, would be able to effectively bring the issues of human rights and US intervention to the greater mainstream of US society, the American people.

In fact, groups like the FFP and the American Friends Service Committee succeeded in pressing the US Congress to pass the Human Rights Amendment, putting in question US military and economic aid to Third World dictators.

According to Donald Goertzen, director of the University of California's Education Abroad Program-Philippines, Boone "strongly identified with the best in American democratic political culture" and believed that "only equals could be friends."

"For that reason," Goertzen said, "Boone always maintained that friendship between the US and the Philippines could only flourish after the US gave up its colonial pretensions."

Like Mark Twain

Boone's opposition to what he regards as his government's imperialist activities prompted some Filipino activists to compare him to the great American author Mark Twain.

Twain, a leading member of the Anti-Imperialist League and who opposed American occupation of the Philippines more than a hundred years ago, believed that such

US policies often ran against the ideals of liberty and justice on which America was founded.

According to Stephen R. Shalom, American author of the book "The United States and the Philippines: A Study of Neocolonialism," both Boone and Twain "saw US domination of the Philippines as a betrayal of fundamental human values."

Boone's critical role in the anti-bases movement in the US was recognized by Filipino anti-bases activists who in 1993, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Senate's 1991 rejection of the bases treaty, honored him with former Senate President Jovito Salonga and former Sen. Wigberto Tañada.

It was a recognition that Boone was reportedly so proud of.

His activism, however, has not lessened his humanity or sense of humor. His letters to friends, scribbled in longhand, were usually short but hilarious.

Writing about his wife's diminishing memory and his own prolonged convalescence from a bout with pneumonia, he said: "At any rate, we're still here, still complaining about the capitalist system to the very last of our limited capacity. That is the bright side! And I mean it."

Another time, after my visit from Boston, he wrote my wife, Chit, about how I "was very helpful politically" to them during my visit. Then he added, "Please encourage Roland to come more often. He is so efficient a dishwasher!"

Donating books

After the successful campaign to dismantle the US bases, Boone donated to the Third World Studies Center in UP Diliman his entire private collection of more than 4,000 books—many of them rare first editions—on the Philippines, the Philippine-American War and US interventions worldwide.

When he found that it had been named the "Boone Schirmer Collection," he wrote the Third World Studies director to protest. He did not want his donation to carry his name. He preferred that it be named after Apolinario Mabini, perhaps to remind intellectuals about their role as patriots. Thus, the books became known as the Apolinario Mabini Collection.

Decades after his first brush

with activism, Boone, now a frail and thin six-footer plus, has not lost the fire that burned in him when he fought against US government support for Marcos.

Anti-terror campaign

Boone is aghest at his government's current global role: "The present Bush administration represents the most extensive and heavily armed empire in history. Its towering economic capacity gives it an influence that is nearly global in entirety."

"Guarding this is an unparalleled military establishment of global reach and frightful nuclear potential. Under the cover of 'The War Against Terrorism,' Washington carries on its hegemonic policy in the Philippines."

"With the collaboration of the present Philippine government, it is attempting to reestablish its military domination on that country to provide a stepping-stone for US military intervention in Asia and the Middle East."

Characteristically, he said, "I oppose Philippine-US relationship of this character. Rather, I support the cooperation of democratic-minded Filipinos with like-minded citizens of the United States to further policies of peace and justice in both countries and throughout the world."

His stand is not a popular one, not in his own country or even in the former colony whose people's struggles he had waged as his own.

But unpopularity does not discourage him.

Recalling a bleak moment in the fight against the Marcos dictatorship when opposition to it was "but a small voice," environmental engineer and activist Emmanuel said, "Boone tried to lift my flagging spirits. He said that as a historian, he had the advantage of seeing things from a historical perspective."

"History is a chronicle of human struggles to build a better world for all but even as humanity moves in that direction, it will have many deviations. A setback may feel devastating when it happens but it is only a small deviation in the larger movement. There will always be a few who will keep nudging humanity to move toward that vision. That, he said, is the role of social justice advocates in every generation."

WIMBLEDON

Venus cruises to semis, sets up rematch vs Henin

WIMBLEDON, England—Venus Williams swept to another easy straight-set victory Tuesday as she moved into the semifinals and closer to her third straight Wimbledon title.

Justine Henin also reached the semis, beating Monica Seles in straight sets, and will face Williams in a rematch of last year's final. Jennifer Capriati made it to the quarterfinals.

The top-seeded Williams, who has dropped one set in five matches, crushed 48th-ranked Elena Likhovtseva 6-2, 6-0 in 44 minutes in the day's opening match on Centre Court.

It was Williams' eighth consecutive win over the Russian, all in straight sets.

Likhovtseva, the only unseeded player to reach the women's quarters, was helpless against the American's relentless power game and won only seven points in the second set.

Solid

"I'm just trying to play more solid every round, garner each point for myself," Williams said. "When it happens like it did today, it's very nice I think. I don't think she gave me a lot of errors. I had to produce most of the shots and put a lot of pressure on her."

Williams has spent only 4 1/2 hours on court in her run to the semifinals and remains a strong favorite to become the first woman to win three straight titles since Steffi Graf in 1991-93.

"Now I expect for myself to be

almost perfect," she said. "When I first started, first getting to the quarterfinals, it was all new. But now I expect to be there."

Williams will next face Belgium's Henin—whom she beat in three sets in last year's final. Henin, seeded sixth, beat No. 3 Seles 7-5, 7-6 (4) in a match that was interrupted twice by rain.

"She didn't play top players in the tournament, so maybe I have a little advantage on this part," Henin said of Williams. "But it's going to be tough for me. But today also it was difficult and I won. I'm in the semifinal and I will have nothing to lose, for sure."

First win

It was Henin's first win over Seles after four defeats, including a quarterfinal loss at the French Open last month.

Henin broke for a 6-5 lead in the first set, saved a break point in the next game and served out the set when Seles hesitated on a floater and hit a short forehand wide.

Seles went up 4-1 in the second set but couldn't hold the lead as Henin won three straight games. Seles fought off four break points to hold for 5-4 and the two players went on serve into the tiebreaker.

Henin raced to leads of 4-1 and 6-2. Seles saved two points with an ace and a backhand winner, but sailed a backhand return long on the third.

Seles, 28, has nine Grand Slam titles but has never won Wimbledon, where she lost in the

1992 final to Steffi Graf.

"She just played the key points better than I did, both sets," Seles said of Henin. "That's why she came out the winner today."

Match point

No. 3 Capriati advanced to the quarterfinals by completing a 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 win over 38th-ranked Eleni Daniilidou of Greece. With the match suspended at one set apiece Monday, Capriati swept the final set in less than half an hour, finishing with an ace on match point.

The match resumed just before 6 p.m. after a series of rain delays throughout the afternoon. The match was moved from Court 1 to Court 18 to ensure it could be completed.

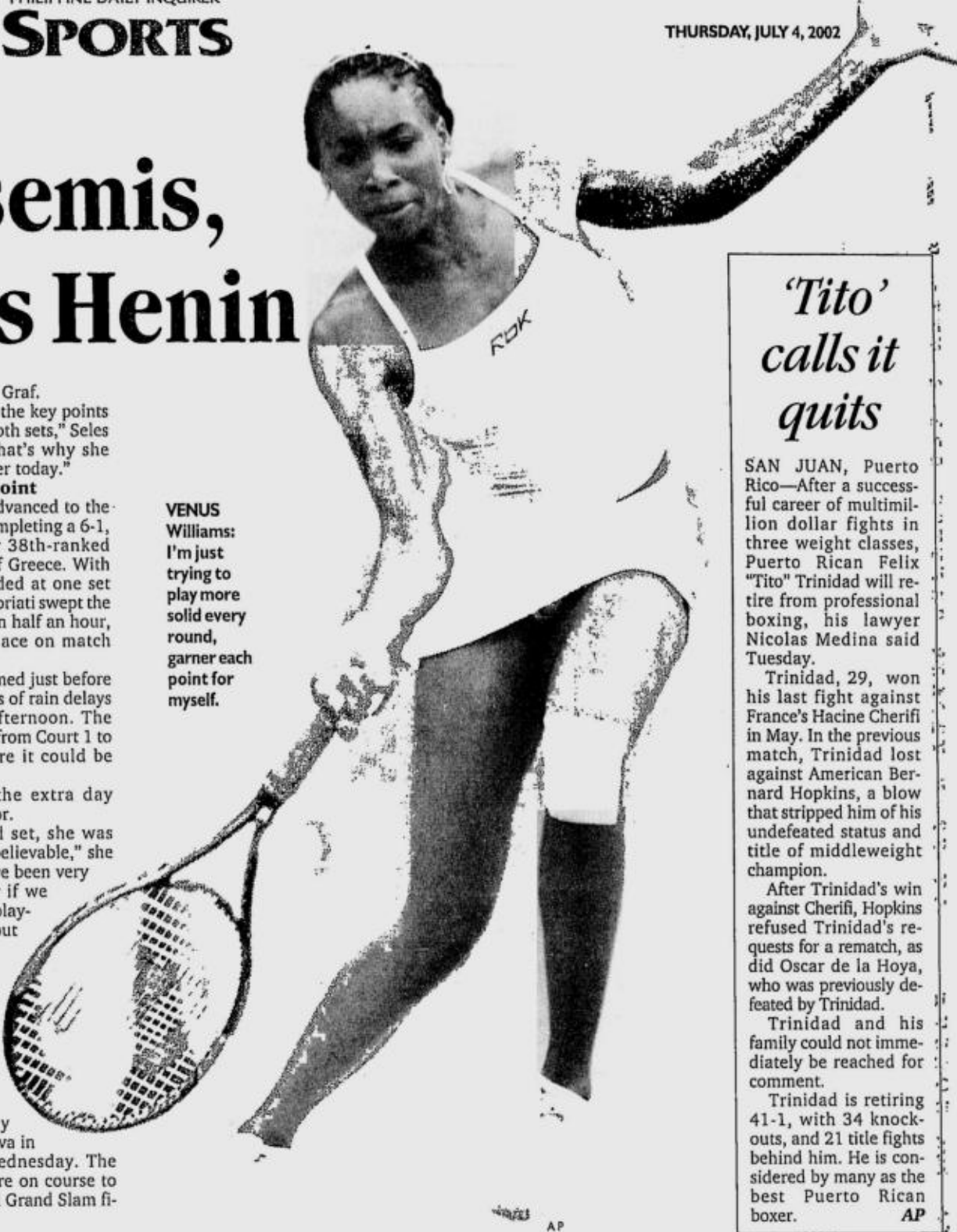
Capriati said the extra day worked in her favor.

"In that second set, she was playing pretty unbelievable," she said. "It would have been very tough to beat her if we would have kept playing. I really came out strong today."

Capriati will face ninth-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France for a place in the semifinals.

Williams' sister, Serena, is scheduled to play Daniela Hantuchova in a quarterfinal Wednesday. The Williams sisters are on course to meet in their third Grand Slam final in 10 months.

VENUS Williams:
I'm just trying to play more solid every round, garner each point for myself.



'Tito' calls it quits

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—After a successful career of multimillion dollar fights in three weight classes, Puerto Rican Felix "Tito" Trinidad will retire from professional boxing, his lawyer Nicolas Medina said Tuesday.

Trinidad, 29, won his last fight against France's Hachine Cherifi in May. In the previous match, Trinidad lost against American Bernard Hopkins, a blow that stripped him of his undefeated status and title of middleweight champion.

After Trinidad's win against Cherifi, Hopkins refused Trinidad's requests for a rematch, as did Oscar de la Hoya, who was previously defeated by Trinidad.

Trinidad and his family could not immediately be reached for comment.

Trinidad is retiring 41-1, with 34 knockouts, and 21 title fights behind him. He is considered by many as the best Puerto Rican boxer. **AP**

Sacred Heart wins Cagayan 3 on 3

JOVER Padilla displayed his sharpness from the outside to carry Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School past La Salle Iligan, 12-10, en route to the Nike 3-on-3 Cagayan de Oro leg championship at the Mindanao Polytechnic State College last Saturday in Cagayan de Oro.

Padilla was almost flawless from every angle, shattering an 8-8 deadlock with a barrage of jumpers as Sacred Heart retained the leg title.

Made up of Ricmar Perturbos, Harvey Igtos and Paul Allen Virtudazo, SHJMS earlier beat Pil-

grim Christian College in the semifinals to set up a final showdown with La Salle Iligan which crushed Lourdes College in the other half of the semis.

Coach Edgardo Dacoco said his charges are slowly showing the maturity which they lacked last year. He said he is confident that the squad will go all the way to the national title.

"Padilla and Perturbos are now experienced players as both had the necessary exposure in the National Students Championships in Roxas City early this year," said Dacoco.

Being the leg winner, SHJMS will now join Bacolod qualifier University of St. La Salle and Cebu champion University of Cebu in the National Finals to be held in Manila in August.

At least 20 teams competed in the Cagayan de Oro leg which was held at the Lim Ket Kai Mall.

The next Mindanao leg of the 3-on-3 tournament for high school will be held at the SM City Davao on July 7. The official residence of Nike 3-on-3 officials and organizers in Davao will be the Apo View Hotel.

Nike Philippine Sports market-

ing manager Auty Villarama, marketing manager Colo Ventosa and marketing coordinator Rely San Agustin presented the medals for the champions team. They were assisted by tournament director Tanny Gonzalez, ThemeWorks' president Miguel Miñana and councilor Benjo Benaldo.

Major sponsor of the Nike 3 on 3 is High Endurance by Old Spice while participating sponsors are Gatorade, Absolute Drinking Water, SM Supermalls, SM Department Store, Toby's, Olympic Village, Olympic World and Royal Sporting House. **Marc Anthony Reyes**



GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre (left) and Pampanga Gov. Manuel 'Lito' Lapid make the ceremonial moves during the opening of the 2002 National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Tournament at the Robinsons Mall, San Fernando City, Pampanga. Looking on are (from left, standing) tournament coordinator Del David; GM Bong Villamayor; NCFP secretary general lawyer Sammy Estimo; GM Joey Antonio; provincial board members Robert David and NCFP Region I coordinator engineer Joseph Dumuk.

Pampanga, 5 others lead provincial chess

Standings after two rounds:

Pampanga, Bohol (San Miguel), Basilan, La Union, Laguna (Gov. Lazaro) Bulacan (Russians) 2. Points; Negros Occidental, Pampanga A, Bulacan (San Rafael), Surigao 1.5; Nueva Vizcaya, Northern Samar, N. Ecija (San Jose), Laguna (Calamba), Negros Oriental, Sarangani 1.

PAMPANGA (Matrinette), spearheaded by GM Bong Villamayor, notched its second shutout win at the expense of Cotabato (Maaz & Moscom) on Tuesday to share the lead with five other teams in the 2002 National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship at the Robinsons Mall in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Villamayor beat NM Emmanuel Senador in their board 1 tussle as Pampanga, cruised to a 4-0 victory and gained its second full point, tying Bohol (San Miguel), Basilan, La Union, Laguna (Gov. Lazaro) and Bulacan (Russians).

Also winning for top-ranked Pampanga were IM Idelfonso

Datu, Jerome Balico and Rolando Yutoc in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the province of Pampanga.

Bohol, backstopped by IM Nelson Mariano II, downed Nueva Ecija (3-1), Basilan, with GM Eugene Torre at the helm, zapped Pangasinan (Boltex), 3.5-5; La Union held the GM Joey Antonio-led Bataan (A) to a 2-2 draw; Laguna whipped Rizal, 3-0; Bulacan nipped Laguna (Calamba), 2.5-1.5.

Pampanga (Matrinette) also scored a 4-0 sweep of Sulong Laguna, while Bohol also blanked Cavite (Bacoar) in the opening round.

Only a half-point behind are Negros Occidental, Pampanga (A), Bulacan San Rafael) and Surigao, which had 1.5 points apiece.

A big group of one-pointer is next, led by Northern Samar, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. **Roy Luarca**

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Carte Blanche 2. Mixle 3. D Contractor
Race 2—1. Good Quality 2. Meal Ticket
Race 3—1. House Conquest 2. Guts Pleaser 3. Kentucky News 4. High Pitch
Race 4—1. D Barrister 2. Ground Fighter/Full Blast 3. Best of Ocean 4. Like A Prince
Race 5—1. Imus Emperor/Al's Princess 2. Enjoy D View/Dynasouls

Race 6—1. Snake Dancer 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Centennial
Race 7—1. Halimuyak 2. Gold and Star 3. Common Ground 4. Diamond Lass 5. Dalanginan
Race 8—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. Ready Aim Fire 3. Green Leaves 4. Busanda Strike 5. Majestic Ruler
Race 9—1. Sacred Hall 2. Tenacity 3. Exchange Deal 4. Pay Check 5. Parola Sunrise 6. Secret Currency

SPORTSWATCH

Anton sizzles

MIKE Anton's streak of podium finishes in his phenomenal comeback season remained intact when he steered his EK4 powered Honda Civic Hatchback to first place finishes in Class B during rounds 7 and 8 of the 2002 SVI Petron Blaze Super Saloon series at the Subic International Raceway last Sunday. Anton immediately took time to credit the people instrumental to his success. "I'd like to thank my wife and kids and my sponsors, Pinoy Toppings, KTC Tools, A-Toy Fiberglass Works, Demvels Enterprises and QC Autosports without whose support and prayers all these would not have been possible," said Anton. "I also doff my hat to my good friend and engine tuner Dominic Cuesta, whose magic transformed my once unassuming Honda Civic Hatchback into the monster that it is today," he added. Anton shrugged off a driving miscue during qualifying and worked his way up from seventh to third place overall in round 8 behind a dazzling drive which awed spectators and competitors alike.

PCSO GP slated

SHELL Racing's Joel Retuya hopes to fortify his hold of solo leadership as the 2002 Formula Toyota Cup stages Rounds 5 and 6 (PCSO Grand Prix) this weekend, July 6-7, at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barrio Maligna, Rosario, Batangas. Retuya, following his big win in Round 4, now totes 70 points in the event sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through its general manager Honeygirl de Leon.

Woods withdraws

LEMONT, Illinois—Tiger Woods withdrew Tuesday from this week's Advil Western Open, citing an unspecified illness. Woods made the announcement on his Web site. He notified the PGA of his decision about Tuesday morning, Western Open spokesman Gary Holloway said. "Naturally, we are disappointed he has had to withdraw," said John Kaczowski, tournament director for the sponsoring Western Golf Association. Kaczowski wished Woods well in his pursuit of golf's Grand Slam. Woods has won the Masters and the U.S. Open, and had planned to make the Western his final tuneup for the British Open, which will be played July 18-21 at Muirfield, Scotland. **AP**

Pililla 4-cock tilt July 20

BIG-TIME derby goes to Pililla, Rizal when the town's Mayor Nick Patenia, one of the country's most respected pitfighters, welcomes the league's cream of the crop on July 20 with a special cocking event.

Dubbed as the "Pililla Town Fiesta 4-Cock Derby" and slated at the Pililla Coliseum, the contest stakes P300,000 for a low entry fee of P6,600 and a minimum bet requirement of P5,500.

Handler's prize and gaffer's prize are pegged at P40,000 and P20,000 respectively. Those interested to join may inquire at 654-1093.

Meanwhile, it's all systems go for the much-awaited "Rambull sa Pililla" 3-Cocker on Saturday, July 6. It will be hosted by Tanay Vice Mayor Rommel Magwili.

Set to see action are Rizal's top derbyists led by Rod Montague and Jojo Sayson of the Tanay Gamefowl Breeders Ass'n, Nick Jan, M-13, Farm, Randy Paz, J.O. Reyes, Ojer Galeria, Coun. Apa Dikit, Boy & Boyer Mariano, Adolf Espiritu, Erning Penuego, Rudy and Nestor Penalver, Mario and Christian Mendez, Benjie Ledesma, Mommy Lilia Bolante Weise, Mayor Patenia, Gov. Ito Ynares and Capt. Dodge Bautista (Sea Power).

Record 62 home runs posted

NEW YORK—A record 62 home runs were hit in the major leagues Tuesday night, breaking the mark of 57 set April 7, 2000.

Jay Gibbons' second homer of the night for Baltimore off Anaheim's Scott Schoeneweis broke the record.

"That's kind of a weird stat to have," Gibbons said. "I didn't even know they kept that. The ball must have been traveling well tonight."

The hitters didn't stop after that. Los Angeles' Eric Karros connected against Arizona's Greg Swindell, Oakland's Olmedo Saenz hit a game-winning two-run shot against Minnesota's Eddie Guardado, and Kansas City's Mike Sweeney and Raul Ibanez homered off Seattle's Kazuhiro Sasaki.

Ibanez's homer was his second of the day, making him the record ninth player to hit at least two in a game Tuesday. The previous mark was eight, on May 19, 1999.

Complete results:

National League—Milwaukee 12, Pittsburgh 6; N.Y. Mets 12, Philadelphia 6; Houston 6, Cincinnati 5, 10 innings; Montreal 5, Atlanta 2; Florida 9, Chicago Cubs 7; St. Louis 11, San Diego 5; San Francisco 18, Colorado 5; Los Angeles 8, Arizona 0.

American League—Boston 2, Toronto 1, 1st game; Boston 6, Toronto 4, 2nd game; N.Y. Yankees 10, Cleveland 5; Texas 3, Tampa Bay 1; Chicago White Sox 17, Detroit 9; Baltimore at Anaheim; Kansas City at Seattle; Minnesota at Oakland. **AP**



ARCHERY MEDALISTS

Raul Ramon Arambulo (third from left), gold and silver medalist in the compound archery individual events and bronze winner, together with Adam Jimenez (left), and Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa in the recent Asian Grand Prix in China, shows the trophy and medals to Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain during a courtesy call Tuesday. Also in picture are archery president Ramon A. Lim and secretary general/treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang. The Filipinos also won two other medals—a silver and a bronze.

MBA-PBL merger off

By Roy Luarda

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association is not yet ready to abandon its regional concept in favor of a merger with the Philippine Basketball League.

Thus, the planned MBA-PBL partnership is off, at least for the year.

This unexpected development came about after the Multi-Regional Board Inc. in their meeting on Monday decided to stick with its original concept of regional competition.

"The MBA will stay regional in nature. We can't afford to give up the provinces and shift our concentration on Metro Manila," said Ramon Tuason, the MBA director for marketing and business development yesterday. "We have established rapport with basketball fans in the countryside and we'd like to maintain that relationship."

Talks were rife since last week that the MBA and the PBL, the teams of which are Manila-based, would merge and form a unified league after businessman and basketball patron Joey Concepcion, president and CEO of RFM Corp., offered to broker a meeting between the honchos of the two leagues.

Concepcion also gave the assurance that RFM would join the envisioned unified league.

In last week's exploratory meeting, however, both parties failed to find enough reasons to co-exist as yet.

"If ever, the merger will have to wait until both leagues deemed it would be for their mutual benefit," said Tuason. **Roy Luarda**



VICTORY PARADE

Brazilian soccer ace Ronaldo (middle) raises the Jules Rimet trophy during his team's victory parade in Brasilia, Brazil where thousands of fans cheered them. Brazil beat Germany, 2-0, in the World Cup final in Yokohama, Japan last Sunday.

World Cup boosts RP football—Adad

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Football Federation president Rene Adad yesterday said the country needs to build on the interest generated by the highly successful World Cup finale between Brazil and Germany to resuscitate the ailing local football.

He said football officials were "pleasantly surprised" at how the World Cup fever caught on the Filipino fans who, strangely enough, rarely turn up during national football meets. "Up to a certain extent, we may have overlooked the fact that interest in football is still there," Adad told the INQUIRER. "Now we need to build on that to promote the sport in the country."

Adad said the lack of a commercial league makes it difficult for football to capture a market. The P-League, patterned after the J-League in Japan, was established three years ago but folded up due to lack of sponsors.

But Adad said that though the Philippines is ranked 175th in the world (bunched with Chad at 176 and Guinea Bissau at 174, and two rungs lower than tiny Tonga at 173), local soccer development is on the right track.

"We've been at that rank for a long time," said Adad. "We don't climb yet we don't slide. But that's going to change for the better a few years from now."

He added that in 1999, a team of football

coaches scoured the countryside to pick at least 30 kids aged six to 10 who are now under the PFF's special program and are being fed, clothed and educated.

"For three years now, they are undergoing special training to develop their talents," said Adad, adding that key attributes, which included height and natural skills, were considered during the selection process. "They are 9-13 years old now."

He said that in five years' time, these kids will bring to fore the "new beginning" of Philippine football as they start to compete in international age-group meets and eventually in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games to be held in the country.

The boys mostly came from Negros and are now in the PFF training center in Barotac Nuevo which boasts of a two-storey building complete with facilities that include computers.

And though the grandeur of the World Cup matches just emphasized how lowly the country is mired in the international football scene, Adad said the Filipino booters have what it takes to compete with the best in Asia like Japan and Korea.

Unlike in other sports where the country either lacks the size to compete or the money to finance the training, Philippine football's main concern is how to gain public support, said Adad.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Rey Pagunsan beat Antonio Lascuña, 3 and 1, to bag the Philippine Amateur Golf championship at the Manila Golf Club. Also today in 1993, La Vista notched 296 points to win the J&B Intervillage North tournament at Wack Wack.

PCC stakes P3M

A WHOPPING prize of P300,000 awaits the winners of Pasay City Cockpit's big-time 4-cock derby tomorrow.

To host the event is the Makisig Group to be assisted by PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butch Olan. Entry fee is P10,000.

On July 12 is another 4-cock event with Toto and Rey San Luis of Laguna as co-hosts.

Meanwhile, a total of 87 participants have registered so far in connection with the "PCC 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby" on July 18 and 20.

Instant prizes await every participant: rice cooker, special rice, two-burner gas stove, casino chips and products of Sagupaan Super Feeds.

Entry fee is P15,000, while guaranteed prize is over P1 million.

For other details, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Paga tilt tomorrow

PHILIPPINE American Golf Association President Jimmy Zeharosa requested all members and guests to attend the July monthly and 34th Anniversary tournament tomorrow at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club where a brand-new Dodge Durango is at stake for a hole-in-one prize. Taylor Made and adidas are co-sponsors.

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Tigers, Kings collide today

GAME TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA tries to bounce back from a disappointing setback as it tackles Barangay Ginebra today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

San Miguel Beer, beefed up by reinforcements Art Long and Shea Seals, caught the Tigers in a bad mood to prevail, 83-75, and enter the win column on Saturday.

That debacle jammed the Tigers in a triple tie at third (2-1) along with the Alaska Aces and the Selecta-RP Team.

The Kings, too, are tied with four other squads at the lower rung of the standings after absorbing their second loss in three starts at the hands of the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs.

Against the Kings, the Tigers possess the edge as far as manpower and the drive to win are concerned.

As proof, the local crew of the Tigers have been displaying inspiring performances not expected from the likes of Estong Balesteros, Ato Morano, William Antonio and rookie Leo Avenido.

These guys are more than enough to support Coca-Cola's old reliables—Johnny Abarrientos and Poch Juinio—and imports Ron Hale and Bryant Basmore.

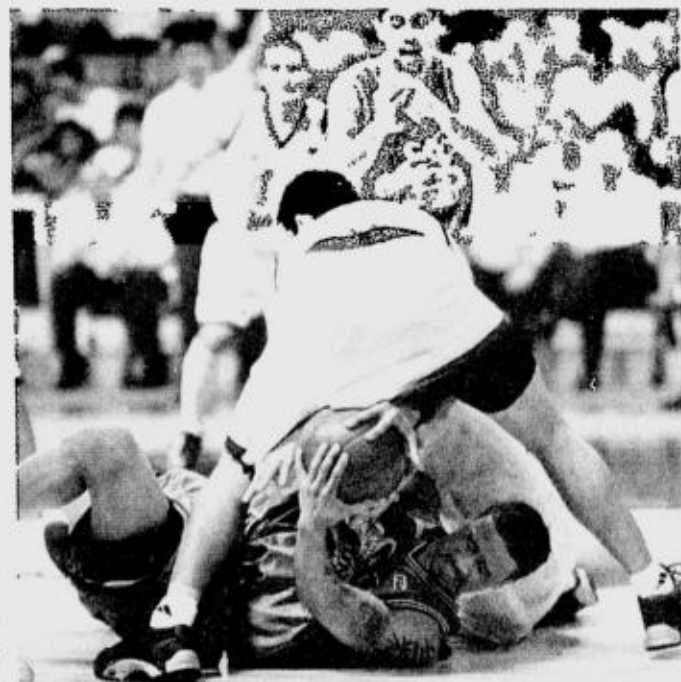
That can't be said, however, on the Kings, who were getting sub-par performances from some of their high-profile locals.

Yeng, Marlou summoned

THE PBA Commissioner's Office yesterday deferred action on the players who figured in a near fistfight after the Batang Red Bull-Sta. Lucia Realty game in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last Sunday.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino summoned Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao and Sta. Lucia Realty slotman Marlou Aquino to appear before him today and shed light on the post-game incident.

Bernardino, however, decided to postpone his decision until after all pieces of evidence have been gathered.



TALK N Text's Kenny Evans tries to hold on to the ball as Selecta-RP Team's Danny Ildefonso and Dennis Espino (partly hidden) apply pressure during their PBA game Tuesday. The Nationals nipped the Phone Pals in overtime, 77-76.

ROMY HOMILLADA

St. Benilde edges SSC

GAMES TOMORROW (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua (srs/rs)

By June Navarro

JAN Anthony Coching completed a daredevil drive with 4.1 seconds left to carry College of St. Benilde to a 74-72 squeaker over defending champion San Sebastian College last night in NCAA basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Coching, a 6-foot guard seeing action on his final year, drove the length of the court after a rebound scuffle and converted the game-clinching basket against Jam Alfad.

The Stags had an opportunity to knot the count but playmaker Christian Coronel, last year's Finals MVP, flubbed a twisting desperation jumper as time expired.

Sunday Salvacion sparked all game long as he came up with 26 points, while rookie Jayjay Sagad and Coching added 12 points each for the Blazers who registered their second straight victory.

The Stags dropped to 1-1 in a tie with the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas, who edged the San Bada Red Lions in overtime, 79-77, earlier in the day.

Marcel Cuenco, a 6-foot-3 power forward and cousin of the late PBA star Rey Cuenco, scored on a putback off a miss by Ronald Hawkins just as the final buzzer sounded.

First game (srs):
UPHR 79—Cuenco 20, Javier 19, Ali-all 16, Hawkins 12, Cosme 9, Botin 2, Quiazon 1, Faundo 0, Balboa 0.
SAN BADA 77—Cordero 26, Baldavia 10, Hudencial 10, Paterno 8, Velasco 7, Merelos 6, Bombeo 5, Gutliban 4, Ong 1, Tolentino 0, Angeles 0, Weber 0, Yousif 0, Arbolio 0.
Quarters: 17-11, 37-31, 51-47, 66-66 (reg), 79-77.

Second game (srs):
CSB 74—Salvacion 26, Sagad 12, Coching 12, Tolentino 8, Perlas 6, Orbeta 5, Castro 3, Magpayo 2, Capati 0, U. Reyes 0, Te 0, V. Reyes 0.

SSC-R 72—Reguerra 13, Najorda 12, Alfad 10, Moore 8, Coronel 7, Vicente 6, Falcasantos 5, Uy 4, De Leon 4, Nadele 3, Baluyot 0, Gonzales 0.
Quarters: 25-10, 40-34, 54-52, 74-72.

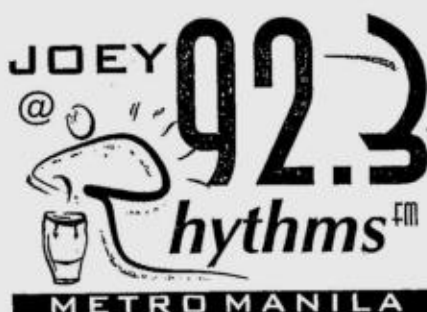


GETTING READY

Jenny Rosales of the Philippines, showing her good fashion sense, prepares for her next shot on the fairway of the Prairie Dunes Country Club in her practice round for the \$2.9 million US Women's Open starting Thursday (Friday in Manila) in Kansas. Rosales is paired with Sweden's Charlotta Sorenstam, sister of hot favorite Annika, and Leigh Ann Mills of the US in the first round. Australian star Karrie Webb will be gunning for history when she attempts to win the tournament three years in a row. Webb won the last two Opens by a total of 13 strokes.

AFP

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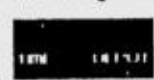
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Principal sacked for Sta. Ana food poisoning

By Jerome Aning

THE HEAD of Manila's division of city schools yesterday sacked the principal and two officials of the Tomas Earnshaw Elementary School in Sta. Ana for the food poisoning incident in the school where more than 600 students took ill last weekend.

Dr. Maria Luisa Quiñones, city schools superintendent, ordered the dismissal of principal Ofelia Viray, Adena Gensaya and Fiel Ramos, supervisors of the school-operated canteen, where the contaminated egg sandwiches were prepared.

The superintendent cited the report of the Manila Health Department, which indicated that the Salmonella organisms originated from the spoiled mayonnaise the supervisors used to prepare the sandwiches.

Quiñones said there was negligence on the part of the two supervisors, while the principal has overall responsibility.

The contaminated sandwiches were prepared on Friday morning and sold the next day. Doctors found traces of Salmonella on the sandwiches and rectal swabs on the victims.

Quiñones told reporters that

the canteen would be closed until investigation of the food poisoning is completed and after the facility passes the sanitation test.

Quiñones said she would also ask the Commission on Elections for permission to replace Viray with another member of the faculty, Francisco Apollo.

Quiñones said a student named Dave Sarol remains under intensive care unit at the Victor Potenciano Memorial Medical Center (formerly Polymedic Hospital) in Mandaluyong City.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered city school and health officials to conduct sanitary inspections of all public school canteens in the city.

Atienza issued the directive after national and local health authorities confirmed that salmonellosis was behind the illness that struck down more than 600 students in Sta. Ana over the weekend.

The Department of Health tested samples taken from the school's water reservoir and the leftover juice consumed by the students. Both samples yielded negative results for contaminants, with the health experts rating the water supply in the school as satisfactory.

Metro mayors gird for clash with Lina

By Christian V. Esguerra

IRATE Metro Manila mayors want to meet with Interior Secretary Jose Lina to finally settle a brewing conflict over the government's anti-gambling campaign.

At a meeting Tuesday, the Metro Manila Mayors' League agreed to call for the junking of a "questionable" policy that led to the relief of seven top police officials for their supposed failure to eradicate *jueteng* operations in their areas, according to Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, the group's spokesperson.

Trinidad was referring to the policy that calls for the relief of police regional directors following three successful anti-*jueteng* raids in their areas. The raids should be conducted by police units outside of a regional director's area of jurisdiction.

"We know that we are somehow covered by this questionable policy, especially after Lina announced that mayors are next on his list," Trinidad

told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"He should remember that we are answerable to the people, not to him," he added.

Lina had particularly asked Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the league president, to explain the continued presence of illegal gambling in his city.

Trinidad said mayors are alarmed that their political opponents might use the "three-raid policy" to put them in hot water.

"Our opponents can easily stage false *jueteng* operations and arrange a raid," he said. "Now, what will happen to us?"

If Lina is really bent on making mayors accountable in the anti-gambling drive, Trinidad said authority over local police should be returned to mayors.

"If that happens, we will make sure that we will wipe out *jueteng* in our areas," he said.

But before Lina cracks the whip on illegal gambling, the mayors said the interior secretary should zero in on "criminality in general to make the people feel safe."



PNP NCRPO Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, who has filed a courtesy resignation after Interior Secretary Joey Lina relieved him along with six others for failing to curb illegal gambling, leaves office.

DENNIS SABANGAN

What's PCIB branch up to?

MANILA policemen have arrested seven construction workers hired by Philippine Commercial Industrial Bank for destroying the sidewalk in front of its branch in Ermita, Manila.

"They did not have a permit from city hall but they were using a jack hammer to wreck the sidewalk," said Supt. Manolo Martinez, Ermita police station chief.

He explained that the construction workers were destroying the concrete sidewalk in front of the PCIB branch at the corner of P. Faura and Mabini streets to make an "inclined portion" on the sidewalk.

"They wanted to make an incline to make it easier for cars to get on the sidewalk and park. But the sidewalk is city property and they did not have a permit," Martinez added.

He said he had the workers arrested and their equipment confiscated.

But the workers were later released after the bank allegedly promised to restore the concrete sidewalk.

There had been complaints that the bank has allegedly "occupied the sidewalk immediately after the bank's main entrance on Padre Faura." Philip Tubeza



ROMY HOMILLADA

SMILING START

Life must go on so this young hawk, peddler of assorted goods and captain of his soul, greets the overcast skies with a sunny smile as he starts another trying day out in the city streets.

She never heard of gold man again

By Leila Salaverria

BUSINESSWOMAN Eva M. Guevarra thought she had struck gold, but she lost P250,000 instead.

Guevarra, 40, of North Fairview, Quezon City, told police on Tuesday that a man approached her in Guadalupe, Makati early in June, introduced himself as "Arman," and claimed he was in the business of selling gold bars. Because her boyfriend was in the same business, Guevarra agreed to buy gold bars from him worth P250,000.

In her statement, Guevarra said that on June 10, she again met with the suspect who introduced her to his alleged cousin. The victim handed over P100,000 to the suspects and asked to see the gold, but the cousin declined to show it, saying their uncle, who allegedly had the bars, would not give Guevarra the gold until she had paid in full.

PO2 Rodolfo Octaviano said Guevarra and the two suspects met again on June 25 at the SM Shoemart Food Court in Ayala Center, Makati City. But the victim was already suspicious and reluctant to fork over P150,000. But Arman was insistent, and even threatened the victim by reminding her that she is "all alone."

Guevarra and Arman's cousin then took a taxi to Los Baños, Laguna, while Arman stayed behind.

At Los Baños, Guevarra asked Arman's alleged uncle where the gold bars were, saying she had already paid for the bars in full. But the uncle said they would have to dig up the bars from the ground.

The victim waited until 7 p.m. that day. Arman's cousin then suggested they return to Makati and look for Arman instead. When they got to Makati, the cousin told Guevarra that she should call Arman on his cell phone.

She never heard from them again.



Lollipop man lands in jail

DINDO Avila, 28, is now in jail for allegedly molesting a 7-year-old girl whom he promised a lollipop in Navotas Sunday night.

Avila, of Sto. Nino Street, Road 10, Northbay Boulevard, North Navotas, has been charged with acts of lasciviousness.

Officer on case SPO4 Nemias Rasmadeno said Avila sexually molested the young victim inside his house at around 7:30 p.m.

Police said the victim was playing with Avila's niece when the suspect called the two girls and asked them

if they wanted lollipops.

When they said yes, the suspect ordered his niece to buy some, leaving the victim behind.

While the girl was watching television, the suspect started to kiss and fondle her private parts.

But she managed to break free and run outside the house, where she met her father and told him what had happened.

The girl's father then sought the help of neighbors, who collared the suspect and took him to the police.

Tina Santos

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QC team chasing robbery gang

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City police are in hot pursuit of a robbery and holdup gang victimizing businessmen in the northern part of the city after a Korean businessman was held up the other day.

The victim was identified as Lee Dong Hee, of 5827 Timog Park Subdivision, Angeles City,

Pampanga.

According to witness Carding Anday, 48, a stay-in auto mechanic of the Auto H Motor Shop located along 534 A. Bonifacio Avenue, he was resting at around 6:30 a.m. when he heard three successive gunshots outside.

When he went out to investigate, he saw Lee running and shouting for help while being

chased by another male person armed with a handgun.

The chase ended in front of the motor shop where the gunman poked his gun at the nape of Lee. But for unknown reasons, the gunman fled leaving behind the victim sitting on the street pavement.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Lee and his driver Larry Paguirigan were on board a

Toyota sedan with plate number WPX-599 travelling along A. Bonifacio Street when their path was blocked by three unidentified armed men on board a Kia Pride.

The suspects alighted and poked their guns at Lee. They tried to grab the clutch bag of Lee containing an undetermined amount of cash but the businessman resisted.

This led to the chase with one of the suspects shooting Lee and the bullet grazing the victim's right forearm. The suspects fled without taking the victim's cash.

When shown pictures of other robbery suspects, Paguirigan identified one suspect as the one who held up Lee.

Police investigation revealed that the identified suspect is part

of a robbery group that was involved in another foiled robbery attempt staged at the Cleveland Industries Inc. on Sto. Domingo Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City a few weeks ago.

Elements of the Theft and Robbery Section under Chief Insp. Bartolome Bustamante are now conducting follow-up operations against the suspects.

Cop in Baguio drug case appears at WPD

By Philip Tubeza

EMBATTLED Manila Insp. Luis Chico finally appeared before his interrogators at the Western Police District on Tuesday night.

Chico, along with his lawyer Reggie Buller, appeared at the WPD-General Assignment Section at around 9 p.m. to deny the bribery charges against him.

He also surrendered his 9-mm service firearm.

According to a police source, Chico insisted on going to Baguio on Sunday "to look for his asset (or informer)."

But the investigators allegedly pointed out to Chico that he had "no business" going to Baguio and interfering in a drug case since he is assigned to the anti-riot police.

Chico is with the WPD-District Civil Disturbance Management Unit and heads a platoon of anti-riot policemen at the United States Embassy.

Outgoing WPD Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos earlier said Chico should be investigated for dipping his hands in narcotics operations.

"Chico has nothing to do with

drugs," Pasinos said. "Only the DEU (drug enforcement unit), and not just anybody, can operate (against illegal drugs)."

"This is to avoid complaints (of frame ups) and other allegations," he added.

Chief Insp. Marcelino Pedrozo, WPD-Gas chief, said the WPD inspectorate office is now studying if there is enough evidence to have Chico "summarily dismissed from the service."

Pedrozo's office earlier charged him with grave misconduct for allegedly trying to bribe Baguio policemen to release two drug suspects.

Chico allegedly went to the 4th Regional Narcotics Office in Baguio before dawn Sunday and offered P200,000 for the release of two men who were caught in a P900,000 shabu buy-bust operation.

Chico allegedly said the suspects were police "assets" to be used in another police operation in Caloocan City, which could lead to a P10-million drug haul.

He was charged Monday with corruption of public officials before the Baguio City Prosecutor's Office.



DRUGS are not the only ones finding their way into jail. Even minors, such as this 16-year-old boy accused of stealing cell phones, are being lumped with hardened criminals in cramped cells. The boy is shown getting a shave from an older inmate at police station 6 on Batasan Road, Quezon City.

Jail was turning into a drug den

By Alcuin Papa

LAX SECURITY at the Quezon City jail has led to the proliferation of illegal drugs in the penal facility.

Police have already caught two inmates in possession of illegal drugs yesterday.

Jimmy Sy, 26 and Ramon Sangco, 49, of Project 7, Quezon City, already in jail for drug possession, will be rapped for additional drug charges, according to the report of SPO1 Conrado Lim of the Central Police District's Kamuning station.

Lim said a jail guard first spotted Sy holding a teabag inside Dorm 5 cell of the Quezon City Jail Annex Building.

Lim said when jail guard SJ02 Bernardo Camus inspected the tea bag at around 1:30 a.m., he found it contained marijuana leaves.

This led to a jail-wide inspection where Sangco was also caught with shabu and drug paraphernalia.

The two were taken to the Kamuning station for further investigation.

Additional drug charges will be filed against Sangco and Sy before the Quezon City Prosecutors' Office, police said.

Satur hits crackdown on Metro barangays

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS THE administration out to crush its one-time allies in the Left, particularly the Bayan Muna activists?

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday condemned the alleged systematic harassment and killings of Bayan Muna workers in the countryside.

"It is a concerted effort and we have to denounce this," Ocampo said during a press conference in Manila.

He said that so far, 23 Bayan Muna workers and allies have been killed in the countryside.

Recently, the Metro Manila Development Authority has allegedly alerted local officials about the infiltration of 52 metro barangays by leftist militants.

Ocampo said that the crackdown may have something to do with the coming barangay elections, though political parties are not allowed to field candidates in those elections.

He added that a Cabinet member confirmed to him that the Cabinet has approved a containment policy against Bayan Muna and its allied organizations.

Ocampo said that all military regional commands in Luzon and Mindanao have been ordered to stop the growing influence of the Left by sending in troops in affected barangays.

He added that even Interior Secretary Jocoy Lina met with mayors in

his native province of Laguna and told them to check the Left's growth.

However, Ocampo dared the administration to come out in the open with this policy since it apparently justifies the use to terror on political activists.

The military had tagged those Bayan Muna workers killed as members of the communist New People's Army.

"Does this mean that those who are in the order of battle already have 'death warrants' that to contain the Left's growing influence, they have to kill?" Ocampo asked.

"Is this a government policy? We want to know," a visibly agitated Ocampo said.

The Bayan Muna party-list organization allegedly has ties with the Communist Party of the Philippines but it is an aboveground organization and has three sitting representatives in the Lower House.

It is considered to be the first foray of the local hardline communist movement in parliamentary politics.

When it first fielded candidates in the last Congressional polls last year, Bayan Muna topped the party-list elections.

Bayan Muna and its allies supported President Macapagal-Arroyo during the Edsa II uprising and provided many of the warm bodies that turned up during the rallies that eventually led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

No easy exit for Pasay cops who bungled Balala rescue

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PASAY policemen who bungled the rescue of Dexter Balala are not yet off the hook despite the withdrawal from the case of the slain victim's family, according to a Regional Trial Court judge.

Sought for his legal opinion, Judge Henrick Gingoyon yesterday said the submission of an affidavit of desistance by the boy's parents would not necessarily result in the dismissal of the case.

The city prosecutor's office, which is conducting a preliminary investigation on the homicide charges filed against the policemen, can still look for more witnesses to help determine if it should elevate the case to the RTC, according to Gingoyon.

Fears that the case against ex-Pasay police chief Eduardo Dela Cerna and 20 other officers, including eight security guards of Philtranco bus terminal, would be dismissed surfaced after the Balalas cleared the respondents last Monday.

The family reportedly received at least P220,000 in exchange for the dropping of the charges. The settlement was supposedly brokered by Florencio Mateo, Pasay's traffic bureau chief and

said to be the cousin of Dela Cerna.

Judge Gingoyon pointed out that the case was not yet "doomed" because Dexter's mother was only one of many people who witnessed the killing of the 4-year-old boy and his hostage taker Diomedes Talvo at the Philtranco terminal in Malibay, Pasay, on May 31. There are other possible witnesses available, he said.

In some instances, criminal cases easily go for naught upon the withdrawal of private complainants because the cases cannot be prosecuted without the family's cooperation, according to the judge.

"For example, if the family member was the only witness to the crime, the case would most likely be doomed if he or she withdraws from the case."

Prosecutor Ronaldo Abrazado had said he would proceed with the preliminary investigation of Dela Cerna and his men despite the submission of an affidavit of desistance by the Balalas.

He said his three-man panel of prosecutors would still weigh the pieces of evidence to be presented during the course of the investigation to determine if there is probable cause to charge the respondents in court.

Maritime journalism seminar

VETERAN editors and journalists with maritime orientation will be the resource persons of the one-day "1st Maritime English & Journalism Seminar/Workshop" set on Saturday, July 20, at AMOSUP Convention Hall, Intramuros, Manila.

Among them are Inday Espina-Varona of Manila Times, Andy Dalisay of Fairplay and Maritime Review, Alec Almazan of Lloyd's List and Maritime Asia, lawyer Bert Castro, and other maritime leaders who have been involved in

media.

Espina will tackle column and editorial writing, Dalisay will talk on basic news writing, Almazan features and magazine writing, Castro on libel laws, and other experts on public and media relations.

Participants will be oriented on basic English grammar, effective and clear writing, handling media and public relations.

Interested parties may call telefax 526-0006 or 0919-318-0992 for details.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 4, 2002
13th Week in Ordinary Time

Am 7:10-17
Mt 9:1-8

1st Reading:

Gospel:

Jesus got back into the boat, crossed the lake again, and came to his hometown. Here they brought a paralyzed man to him, lying on a bed. Jesus saw their faith and said to the paralytic, "Courage, my son! Your sins are forgiven."

Then some teachers of the Law said to themselves, "This man insults God." Jesus was aware of what they were thinking, and said, "Why have you such evil thoughts? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven' or 'Stand up and walk'? You must know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He then said to the paralytic man, "Stand up! Take your stretcher and go home." The man got up, and went home.

When the crowds saw this, they were filled with awe and praised God for giving such power to human beings.

Commentary

In the time of Jesus, people believed that sickness was a punishment from God. Many texts of the Old Testament emphasize the complex connection between sin and illness. Though far from old Jewish mentality our modern culture recognizes the interconnection between body and soul and that sickness often makes us conscious of our state of sinfulness. We are psychosomatic persons. In today's gospel Jesus disturbs those who were still wondering who he was, and at the same time he shows that only he can save the whole person, body and soul. Here Jesus acts like God: he looks at the person, he rectifies the complexes of culpability and he grants pardon before healing. The Church is the new presence of Christ in the world: every Christian community receives the gifts of God for healing and reconciliation.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://missionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)



MAKING HAY

A scavenger takes advantage of the weather as stormy conditions out at the Manila Bay wash debris close to shore.

ERK ARAZAS

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Grave abuse of discretion—By grave abuse of discretion is meant such capricious and whimsical exercise of judgment which is equivalent to an excess or a lack of jurisdiction. The abuse of discretion must be so patent and gross as to amount to an evasion of a positive duty or a virtual refusal to perform a duty enjoined by law, or to act at all in contemplation of law as where the power is exercised in an arbitrary and despotic manner by reason of passion or hostility. In its decision holding that the municipal court has jurisdiction over the case and that private respondent was not stopped from questioning the jurisdiction of the Regional Trial Court, respondent Court of Appeals discussed the facts on which its decision is grounded as well as the law and jurisprudence on the matter. Its action was neither whimsical nor capricious. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Dueno v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. No. 131282, January 4, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Singing newcomer from Texas creates excitement in American music scene

WHAT does it take for a young artist to break into the music scene and make a relevant dent in the business?

If we are to base the answers on any of today's hottest and most successful pop acts, then one must possess at least three of the following in order to succeed: A pretty face, impressive singing voice and a gorgeous, young body.

That's exactly why 22-year-old Norah Jones, a virtual unknown from Dallas, Texas, is causing such tremendous excitement in the American music scene.

A gifted singer, pianist and composer trained in jazz, Norah Jones is the exact opposite of a teen pop queen of the music video generation. She rarely stands up from her piano bench while performing. She doesn't dance or look straight into the camera pretending to see you and she certainly doesn't resort to theatrics to make you listen. She just sits there, plays and sings.

And for once, everyone is truly listening.

Jones recently released her recording debut, "Come Away With Me," distributed locally by EMI Philippines.

The album turned into an instant



SINGER-SONGWRITER
Norah Jones comes out with her recording debut.

classic the moment it came out.

The Boston Globe and the Washington Post gave Jones rave reviews for the album. Entertainment Weekly selected her as one of the

"brand new heavies" and Rolling Stone included her in its recent list of "The Next Wave: 10 Artists to Watch."

The first single off the album is "Don't Know Why." Other tunes include the title track and "Nightingale," both of which Jones composed with "The Long Day is Over."

Having been trained in jazz at an early age, Jones also pays tribute to some of her musical influences. She puts a sophisticated, heartfelt spin on Hank Williams' "Cold, Cold Heart," one of the album's most successful covers.

Jones also uses material from other renowned artists such as Hoagy Carmichael and J.D. Loudermilk, artists who are virtually either unknown or forgotten outside the US but are sure to be re-discovered by Jones' younger fans.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SLACKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASARAP ANG BAWAL / SALSA
ODEON	MINORITY REPORT
ODEON-2	DISKART
ROBEN	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR-2	TAMPAISAW

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	FOREVERMORE
B	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-2	BAD COMPANY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKART
CINEMA-2	TAMPAISAW
CINEMA-3	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LIFE OR SOMETHING...
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-12	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-14	LEGEND OF THE TITANIC
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-2	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-3	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-4	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-5	SLACKERS
CINEMA-6	MINORITY REPORT

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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BAD COMPANY

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THE SUM OF ALL FEARS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	JUST VISITING - GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	LIFE OR SOMETHING - P 13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
BAD COMPANY - P13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SLACKERS - R 18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	MINORITY REPORT - P13 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

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- 5 (100%) JUST VISITING
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- 3 FOREVERMORE
- 4
- 5
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- 1 LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- 2 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- 3

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- 3 SLACKERS
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METROPOLIS str tel 850.4285

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- 2 TAMPISAW
- 3 JUST VISITING
- 4 FOREVERMORE
- 5 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- 6 MINORITY REPORT
- 7
- 8

PREMIERE (Makati City) TEL 751-2010 TO 13

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- 2 RESERVE
- 3 BAD COMPANY
- 4 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8569

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- 3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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- 6 MINORITY REPORT
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- 8 LIFE OR SOMETHING...

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- 8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
- 9 TAMPISAW

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- 3 RESERVE
- 4 FOREVERMORE
- 5 LIFE OR SOMETHING...

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- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

FRC Cinema Talaba Bacoar Cavite

- 1 MAMASAN

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- 3 FOREVERMORE
- 4

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- 4 TAMPISAW
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- 12 KATAWAN MO...

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- 6 MINORITY REPORT
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- 11 A WALK TO REMEMBER
- 12 SCOOBY DOO

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- 4 LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- 5 SCOOBY DOO
- 6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
- 7 SLACKERS
- 8 LEGEND OF TITANIC
- 9 FOREVERMORE
- 10 BAD COMPANY
- 11 KATAWAN MO...
- 12 A WALK TO REMEMBER

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- 2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
- 3 KATAWAN MO...
- 4 FOREVERMORE
- 5 LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- 6 JUST VISITING
- 7 MINORITY REPORT
- 8 BAD COMPANY
- 9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- 10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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- 7 FOREVERMORE
- 8 MINORITY REPORT
- 9 SCOOBY DOO
- 10 KATAWAN MO...

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- 1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- 2 BAD COMPANY
- 3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
- 4 I AM SAM
- 5 DISKARTE
- 6 RESIDENT EVIL
- 7 FOREVERMORE
- 8 MINORITY REPORT

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- 1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
- 2 CLOSED
- 3 CROSSROADS
- 4 FOREVERMORE
- 5 DISKARTE
- 6 MINORITY REPORT
- 7 CLOSED
- 8 RESIDENT EVIL

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- 2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
- 3 BAD COMPANY
- 4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
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- 4 BAD COMPANY

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- 2 JUST VISITING
- 3 KATAWAN MO...
- 4 FOREVERMORE

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- 2 DISKARTE
- 3 MINORITY REPORT
- 4 FOREVERMORE
- 5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
- 6 RESIDENT EVIL

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- 3 STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND
- 4

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- 2 4 NEW
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- 4

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- 2 MINORITY REPORT
- 3 JUST VISITING
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- 5 BAD COMPANY
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- 7 FOREVERMORE
- 8 SLACKERS
- 9 TITANIC
- 10 SCOOBY DOO

Ermita 536-7809-12

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- 4 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
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- 6 JUST VISITING
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- 1 MINORITY REPORT
- 2 KATAWAN MO...
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Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

- 1 MINORITY REPORT
- 2 IN THE BEDROOM
- 3 FOREVERMORE
- 4 MONSTER'S BALL
- 5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
- 6 MAMASAN

Iloilo 336-8077-78

- 1 RESIDENT EVIL
- 2 DISKARTE
- 3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
- 4 MINORITY REPORT
- 5 CROSSROADS
- 6 FOREVERMORE

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San Fernando, Pamp. 961-5318 / 5270

- 1 BAD COMPANY
- 2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
- 3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
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- 6 MINORITY REPORT

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Janice enjoys student life again

JANICE de Belen is back to school. In spite of her hectic show biz schedule which includes hosting the daily morning show "Sis" and "S-Files" on Sundays (both on GMA 7), she still managed to squeeze in a full load of Psychology subjects at Ateneo.

"Even my dad and mom are excited that I'm enrolled again," Janice beams. "I really enjoy the feeling of being a student. It has always been my dream to finish college."

Janice is setting a good example which other stars without a degree should emulate. Although the big bucks they rake in as actors are more than enough for them to be financially stable, there's nothing quite like a solid foundation to fall back on.

Fame and fortune are fleeting, but a good education is something no one can take away from you.

But you can't blame other stars for not being able to handle the pressure of juggling show biz commitments and school work. Maybe some of them are willing but are not able to do so. They also have to contend with the usual sneers and stares that some campus folk might throw their way.

As Janice discloses, "At first I had some apprehensions because Ateneo is known to be such a *sosyal na* school. I thought I would find it hard to blend in. Much to my surprise, my

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



blockmates are very friendly. They made me feel at home instantly. I like the fact that they don't give me any star treatment. I like being dealt with as simply me."

Why Psychology? "I can use it in my job as a host. I want to learn how to analyze why people say the things they say and do certain things."

Is she going to psyche up her future boyfriend now that she's separated?

Janice laughed. "My studies might come in handy, too, in that way but you know how it is when you fall in love. You keep saying you don't want to love again because you've been hurt before, but it just hits you when you least expect it."

So how's her love life now? "There's always a stigma when you're a separated woman," Janice said. "You can't go out with a guy just for fun without people putting malice into it. At first I was wary about that, but now I've reached a point where I feel that I don't owe anybody an explanation."

"I don't go out with a guy just

for the heck of it. I don't believe in blind dates or *buyo-buyo ng barkada*. I know what my type is. I don't like to lead a guy on. I have to like him first before even agreeing to have dinner with him."

Does her ex-John Estrada reprimand her if she happens to be seen with another guy?

"What for? We don't meddle in each other's business now. The only thing we have in common is our kids. That's where our boundaries end."

Over and above the lessons she'll learn in school, Janice is definitely armed with profound lessons that can only be learned by loving, getting hurt and living with the pain.

Campus life

SPEAKING of campus life, I rounded up celebrities and asked them what they would have been if they were not celebrities, how they managed to get through school with their meager allowance and trivia about their favorite *baon*. May their revelations help you lighten up as you go through the daily grind in school.

Richard Gomez: I always wanted to become a pilot. I took up two years of accounting. I shifted to filmmaking and mass com. In elementary, I would always bring *pandesal* for *baon*.

Chin-Chin Gutierrez: I would perhaps take up field research bio-diversity marine or terrain if I didn't get into B.A. Com Arts. If I were not an actress, I would still want to be connected

with the performing arts in whatever way. I would probably also merge Eco with spiritual sciences a la Pythagoras and teach like Sheherazade. I was always looking for a great *halo-halo* when I was a student.

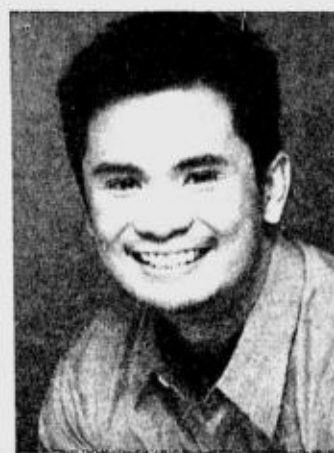
Joey Generoso (Side A vocalist): I saw myself managing a bar and having a day job in the office for eight hours. Music has always been my passion so I took up Conservatory. At first I was also thinking of taking up a computer course because they said it's hard to be a musician all your life. But with Side A, I realized that being a musician can be a full-time career after all, if you only put your whole heart into it.

My favorite *baon* was *hopia* and chocolate milk. I saved my *baon* by buying just the important stuff. *No luho* for me.

Diether Ocampo: I took up physical therapy so I would have been a doctor. I worked in a fastfood chain because my *baon* in school wasn't enough. I loved peanut butter sandwich, banana cue, *turon* and *sago't gulaman* for recess.

Karen Davila: If I were not a newscaster I will choose to be with Unicef or Care. I want to make a difference in children's lives and local communities. When I was in second year high school, I wanted a pair of Tretorns. My mom wanted me to buy it with my own money so I had a garage sale of my old clothes and made P700 out of it.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com



CROSSOVER ARTISTS. Ogie Alcasid and Mitch Valdes to share the Captain's Bar stage.



Theater artists perform songs from film, theater

"AMAZING Nights" at The Tent stretches its audiences' adventure further this July. With Maestro Ryan Cayabyab as musical director, "Amazing Nights" ventures in to the world of theater and film with "A Musicales Revue."

On July 11, Mr. C gives the mainstream tunes a rest and opts for moving and classic hymns and suites from critically acclaimed stage productions in West End and Broadway, written by theater's greatest composers and lyricists.

Aside from tracks from stage musicals, "A Musicales Revue" will also include unforgettable themes from movie classics. "Amazing Nights" gathers four of Philippine theater's respected artists to perform the vocally challenging tunes in the repertoire—Menchu Lauchengco (Ellen in "Miss Saigon"), Sheila Francisco (Ursula in "The Little Mermaid") and Trumpets' Carlo Orosa and Audie Gemora.

Tickets are at P900 each and available only at The NBC Tent at the Bonifacio Global City.

For reservations, call 887-4000 and 887-8000. "Amazing Nights" is presented by Smart and Butterfly Inc., with Dove, PLDT Business Solutions and Astoria Plaza Serviced Residential Suites managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

It is also made possible by Joliza Furniture, Le Soufflé, Melow Touch 94.7, 105.1 Crossover and Joey@Rhythms 92.3.

'Crossover Presents'

CROSSOVER'S premier concert series, "Crossover Presents," continues with none other than award-winning singer and composer Ogie Alcasid performing on July 18, with singer-comedienne Mitch Valdes at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Joining them onstage are vocal group The Opera and "Crossover Presents" resident musicians—Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Mel Villena on saxophone, Roy Mercado on drums and musical director Gerard Salonga on keyboards. Show starts 8 p.m. with the soothing strains of instrumental group Da Capo playing favorite Crossover tunes.

Ogie, who has made a distinct niche in the music industry with his highly requested OPM love songs and brilliant compositions for some of the best local artists, will perform choice Crossover classics, R&B and contemporary jazz tunes for an evening filled with great fun and good music.

For ticket inquiries, call Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at 750-8888.

'Siete Pecados Live'

RIVETING stage acts bring the house down at "Siete Pecados Live!" at Westin Philippine Plaza.

The nightly bar scene gets exciting with every performance of energetic bands this month.

Groove to the beat of Kislev and Arpie and the Multivitamins on Mondays. Tuesdays are with Illustra and Route 70.

Dance to the rhythms of Music Making Company and Arpie and the Multivitamins on Wednesdays.

On Thursdays, jam with G Steps and Shoop. Catch the music of Arpie and the Multivitamins and Kislev on Fridays. Then have a blast on Saturdays with Adlib and Arpie and the Multivitamins.

Siete Pecados has always been the breeding ground of the country's top talents. Whether you're into dancing, grooving or reminiscing, Siete Pecados is the place to be from Mondays to Saturdays. Show starts 8 p.m. with a minimum consumable charge of P250 from Mondays to Thursdays and P500 on Fridays and Saturdays.

For inquiries call Westin Philippine Plaza at 551-5555, locals 1231, 1232 or 5000.

Acoustic music

THE acoustic music for college-bred talents fills the elegant ambience of Tapika Restaurant at 220 Katipunan Avenue, Blue Ridge, Quezon City.

On Mondays, the duo known as Revert brings in the crowd as they render old songs which their name signify. Iby Piquero plays the guitar and Sheryl Revevente does percussions and back-up vocals. Their music influences include Seals and Croft, Karen Carpenter and Patti Austin.

Ria Victorino, Anna Santos and Jerome Rico make up The Acoustic Dream which performs on Tuesdays. All three had classical music training at the UP College of Music. They sing a repertoire of standards, jazz and pop.

Fiddler's Green is a six-piece band which thrives on influences ranging from folk to indie rock. With the exception of Micaela Benedicto, a music teacher and UP graduate, the rest are Ateneo students who also ventured into songwriting and producing diverse composition. Members are Chris and Mark de Joya, Karlo Miguel, Michael and Micaela Benedicto and Michaela Tatad.

The Hourglass offers soothing music from standards to the '80s, to current R&B, pop and fusion pieces. The trio of Ria Villena, Paolo Tiongson and Egay Caole are music majors from UP College of Music.

Ria is the lead vocalist, plays the keyboard and the flute. Paolo is a guitar major, while Egay recently graduated with a degree in Music Education.

J. Paulo Santos goes solo with his acoustic guitar and sings folk and jazz. He is singled out for the passion of his performance, his arrangements, improvisations and humor. He goes falsetto and

belts out songs by Patti Austin or Vanessa Williams.

Showtime is 9 p.m. For reservations, call Tapika at 647-8033.



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TITANIC

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NOW SHOWING



'COFFEE TALK'

TV'S newest talk show, "Coffee Talk," picks Seattle's Best Coffee (SBC) as its first featured coffee shop for its initial telecast. As part of the initial offering, the show presented a fresh encounter with industrious, young SBC general manager, Frederick Sy. Photo shows "Coffee Talk" host Cheri Mercado (right) and executive producer Anjie Ureta (left) with SBC marketing manager Marlyn Ferrer at the E. Rodriguez branch. This week, "Coffee Talk" features events specialist Tim Yap, fitness diva Vanessa Garcia and her Taabo class, plus a preview of the last completed *zarzuela* of the late National Artist Lucio San Pedro. The show airs on Saturdays, 9 a.m., with replays on the same day, 3 p.m. and Sundays, 9 a.m. on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

Matrix-style action in 'Hard as Nails'

PRODUCED by Roger Corman of "The Arena" fame, "Hard as Nails" boasts of human drama and sizzling scenes, with over-the-top, sword-swinging encounters and adrenaline-charged martial arts sequences never before seen in any film of its kind.

Starring Allen Scott, Kim Yates and Lorissa McComas, the movie is now available on original VHS and VCD copies distributed nationwide by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

In the story, a young American member of the Japanese mafia assumes power. Death awaits anyone who gets in the way. His path crosses with a beautiful stripper and an undercover cop, caught in the crossfire of betrayal and slashing words, as the new crime lord attempts a deadly pact with the Russian counterpart.

With Matrix-style action that ignites the screen from beginning to end, "Hard as Nails" guarantees a home-viewing experience that surpasses the expectations of video lovers.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive at 245-5011 to 12 (Manila), 032-412-1948 (Cebu) and 082-221-0405 (Davao).



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Fun and fantasy for the whole family!

'Just Visiting' NOW SHOWING

When a wizard uses a flawed time-travel potion and bungles his magic spell, a noble knight, Count Thibault, and his clumsy servant, Andre, find themselves transported from 12th century medieval France to 21st century modern-day Chicago! Confused, lost and overwhelmed, the pair meets hilarious misadventures with automobiles, electricity and indoor plumbing. They enlist the help of Thibault's descendant Julia Malfete as they find their way back to their own time, armed with the timeless values of honor and courage.

Based on a phenomenal box office hit in France, JUST VISITING is a heartwarming comedy adventure for the entire family. Loaded with special effects and laugh-out-loud comic moments, JUST VISITING is a movie-going treat for all ages.

JUST VISITING stars Jean Reno, Christina Applegate and Christian Clavier, and is directed by Jean-Marie Gaubert from a screenplay by Clavier & Jean-Marie Poire & John Hughes.

For screening times, call 729-7777. Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BAD COMPANY	1 SCOOBY DOO	1 IRIS (Exclusive Screening)	LIFE OR SOMETHING... 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	1 MINORITY REPORT
2 SLACKERS	2 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	2 LIFE SOMETHING LIKE IT
3 FOREVERMORE	3 JUST VISITING	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT	3 JUST VISITING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 SCOOBY DOO
4 MINORITY REPORT	4 LEGEND OF THE TITANIC	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 8:00 PM July 9 & 6	4 BAD COMPANY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 JUST VISITING
	5 LIFE OR SOMETHING...		5 SUM OF ALL FEARS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 BAD COMPANY
	6 BAD COMPANY			

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Broken houses, infallible newscasters, Hawaiian wedding motives and other boob-tube booboos

HOST: Why do you think so many tourists are attracted to your resort?

Guest: Well, it's a beautiful resort!

Host: Yes, but what specific attractions do you have to offer?

Guest: Oh, we have many pools around, and many snakes around, too!

(How-attractive!)

Host: Do you like fairy tales? Stories of princes and princesses?

Guest: Yes!

Host: Who is your favorite princess?

Guest: Ah—Princess Punzalan! (Wheel!)

Host: Is it difficult being a newscaster?

Guest: Oh, very.

Host: What's the most difficult aspect of the job?

Guest: Newscasters have to be infallible. (Infallible? I guess that counts you out!)

Host: I hear you and (name of male star) are now sweethearts?

Guest: No, that's too fast!

Host: Why, what's the real score between the two of you?

Guest: Right now, we're still feeling each other.

(Not in public, we hope!)

Host: What are the grounds for annulment?

Guest: Well, it depends on the couple and their particular problems.

Host: What's the common?

Guest: For quite a lot, it's the psychological incapacitate. (The what?)

Host: What should the winner of this beauty contest possess?

Guest: Our winner must have a sound mind, body and soul!

(Who do you have on your board of judges—a psychiatrist, a medical doctor and a confessor?)

Host: I hear you had a difficult childhood?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Guest: Yes, I had to overcome many problems while I was so young.

Host: Looking back now, what do you think was the root cause of all those problems?

Guest: I think, because I came from a broken house! (Ay, house!)

Host: Where did you get your singing talent?

Guest: Well, you probably don't know that my uncle in my family was very close. (Ano daw?)

Host: If you were to get married this year, what kind of wedding would you like to have?

Guest: Well, since we're in the tropics, I think I want to get married in a ceremony na Hawaiian ang motive!

(Ay, motive!)

Host: Who's your favorite singer?

Guest: Si Audie Alcasid!

(Is he a cross between Audie Gemora and Ogie Alcasid?)

Host: What do you do when you have a lot of problems that seem to be insurmountable?

Guest: When I'm having a very hard time and I'm in the dark, lo and behold, I read the Bible!

(Wow, lo and behold!)

Host: What about you?

Another guest: I also have seemingly hopeless times, but I just stop and think: Looking back on the hindsight, I can survive! (Isa ka pa!)

Host: The military has been accused of imposing news blackouts during the ongoing campaign against terrorists. How do you answer the charge?

Guest: It's fully required by the sensitivity of the situation. Secretiveness is required for the protectiveness of the country and its peaceful citizens!

(Wow!)

Disney inks deal with SkyCable

ABC Cable Networks Group signed a deal for Disney Channel with Central CATV Inc. (SkyCable) and Philippines Home Cable Holdings Inc. (Home Cable) starting this month. The announcement was made by Jon Niermann, managing director for Walt Disney Television International Asia-Pacific.

The deal provides for Disney Channel to be carried on the basic tier of Sky Cable platforms in the Central CATV franchise area and on Home Cable affiliates outside of the Metro Manila area. Both Sky Cable and Home Cable will also offer Disney Channel Mandarin service as a premium service on their systems.

The Mandarin feed is both subtitled and dubbed. The fresh agreement effectively renews the existing relationship of Disney Channel with Home Cable's affiliate systems and extends the relationship to Sky Cable subscribers.

The agreement was signed in Manila last June 10 by Eugenio Lopez III, chair of Beyond Cable Inc. and Jon Niermann, managing director for Branded TV-Asia Pacific for Walt Disney Television International.

In his remarks, Carlos V. Tria, chief operating officer of Beyond Cable Inc. said, "We welcome Disney Channel as sure as our Sky Cable

subscribers welcome Disney into their homes. With Disney on Sky, we now have the most comprehensive kids' programming among all cable networks."

Disney Channel launched in the Philippines on January 2000 over Home Cable and on various other cable systems throughout the country. Since that time, there has been a steady increase in the number of systems that have signed carriage agreements for the channel.

Disney Channel Asia, headed by managing director Raymund Miranda, is now available in five countries around the region: Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. It is a multi-language feed with a main feed in English.

It also offers dubbing and subtitling in Mandarin and a Korean subtitled feed for Korea. The channel most recently added Korea to its territories when it launched on Korea Digital Broadcasting's Skylife platform last June.

"We've been very well received in the Philippines," Miranda said. "Our performance in the Philippines over the past two years and a half years has exceeded our expectations in terms of ratings success and the positive reception from kids and their families."

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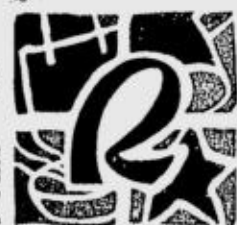
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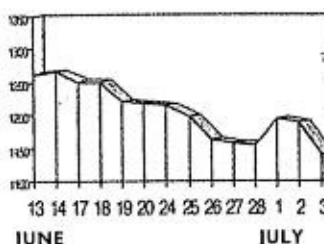
As of 5 p.m., July 3, 2002

GOLD: \$313.15/313.65

July 3, 2002

RSE COMPOSITE INDEX

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index plunged 48.56 points to close at 1,141.55, its lowest level since Dec. 13, when the index settled at 1,107.73.



(See stock market report on Page B1)

THE BUDGET deficit swelled to P107.54 billion in the first five months as weak revenues and aggressive spending continued to pull down the government's efforts to restore fiscal discipline.

The fiscal gap from January to May was 84 percent more than the deficit of P58.33 billion a year ago and equivalent to 83 percent of the P130-billion target for the year.

Economic officials of the Macapagal administration were unperturbed.

"We remain committed to our deficit target of P130 billion. We met the challenge in 2001 and we are confident we will do so again in 2002," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

This year, the government must limit its fiscal gap to P180 billion from P147 billion last year to be on track with the objective of closing the gap between revenues and expenditures by 2006.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin pointed out that the government could cut as much as P83.5 billion of expenditure items this year representing funds that have yet to be released to the various state agencies.

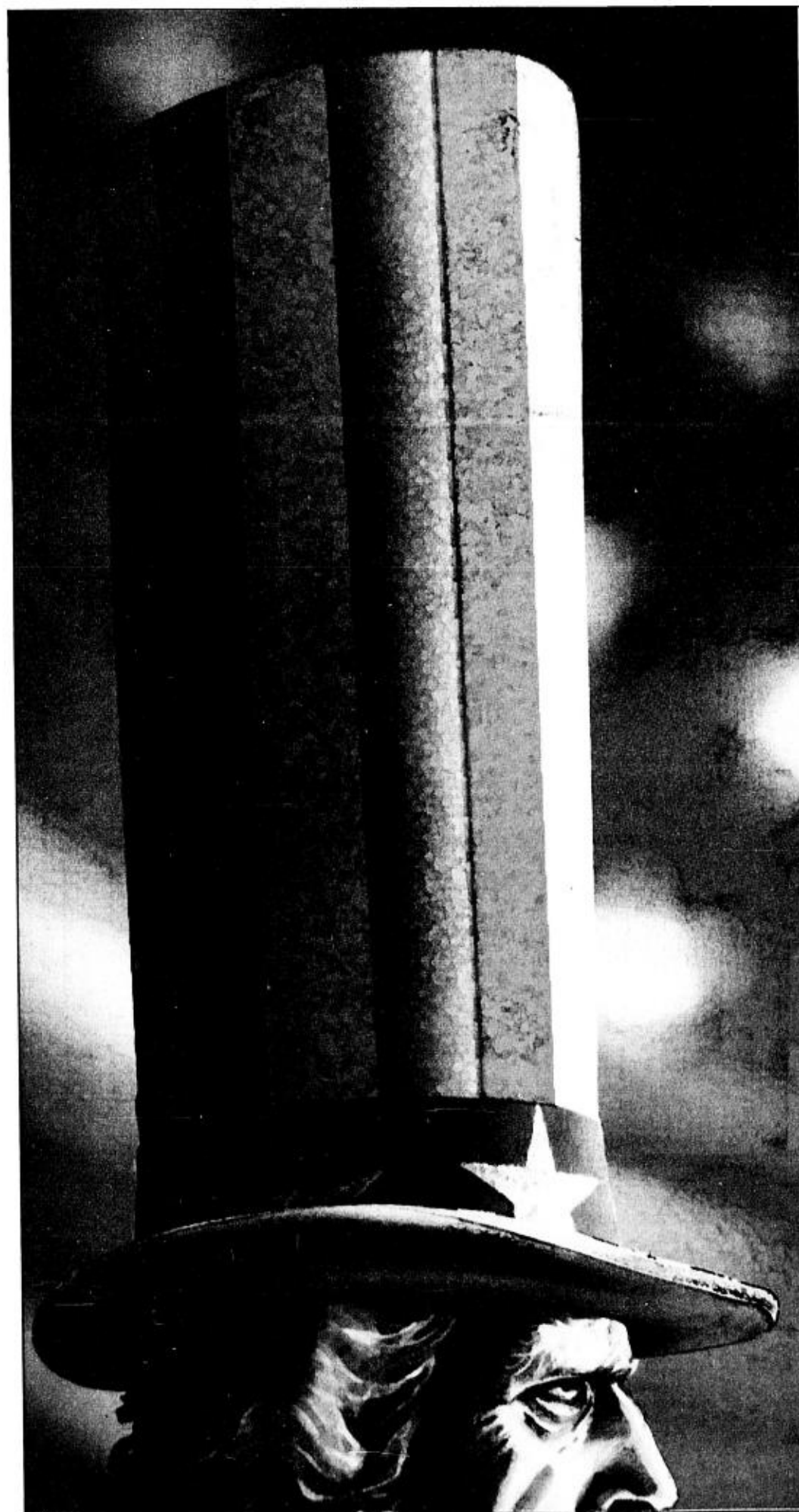
BUDGET/ B2



MACAPAGAL AT ASIAN FORUM

President Macapagal-Arroyo graces the second day of the Asian Forum at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City to launch Corporate Social Responsibility Week 2002 every first week of July. Welcoming the President are (from left) Philamlife president Jose L. Cuisia, former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. and AIM president Roberto de Ocampo. The President also received the report "Consolidated Business Sector Response to Poverty Reduction" from Rory Francisco Tolentino, chair of the League of Corporate Foundation.

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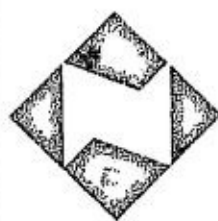
See posters and flyers for details. *Promo extended until July 31, 2002. Approved by DTI-HCR. Per DTI-HCR permit no. 1087 series of 2002.

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Back-steps here

BY now, the famous PPA must be dizzy. It has been doing the usual round. The PPA issue has been passed around many times. You know—the usual buck-passing!

It goes around more than the text message on the 2004 line-up, featuring *Ang Pantay*, *Ang Panday* at *Ang Manay*, *Ang Lagay*, and *Ang Taray*. You know who they are.

But, finally, the traveling PPA buck stops at the desk of Gloriaetta. She is taking control of the PPA problem with a 10-point ambitious program.

Last Saturday, Gloriaetta told a small group of news people invited by the Palace for dinner that she would work around the clock to reduce the electricity rate.

That, I'm afraid, is the only way for her to get rid of the PPA issue. Our high electricity rates are unlike other issues, which will always die down through time.

Every month, we see our electric bills in black and white or, in my case, in black and orange. I don't know what's with the Meralco orange paper. Do you?

That Saturday at the Palace, I confessed to

BREAKTIME

by

Conrado R. Banal III



Gloriaetta that the PPA could really enrage me every time I saw my bill. That, like PMS, happens every month.

NO wonder, the PPA issue brought down Gloriaetta's cuteness to its lowest ever, even lower than the rating of the man named Band ... Wrist Band ... at the height of his infamy.

All right, half of the population got it right on the dot. They think it is quite unfair to heap the blame for the PPA on Gloriaetta.

She has nothing to do with it. Somebody else made all the money. No power supply contract was ever signed after him.

But even then, the other half of the population is blaming her for the PPA. Some 20 per-

cent think wrongly that she has absolute control over electricity rates.

About 30 percent think—and more reasonably—that she has the power to cut the rates—one way or another. Nobody thinks, unfortunately, that rate cuts do have their limits.

IF Gloriaetta succeeds and she completes the program, she can bring our electricity rates at par with those of South Korea. This is competitive enough to many in business.

Still, the question remains: Given the gravity of the PPA problem, and the huge task to solve it, when can we expect to get to that point? I guess it has to be soon.

Surely, Gloriaetta wants the program done before 2004. She can't just depend on a good team like *Ang Pantay*. Unless it is solved, the PPA can still drag her down.

Thus, Gloriaetta's 10-point rate-cutting program is all administrative work. She said last Saturday, and I detected a hint of delight in her voice, that she did it on purpose.

BREAKTIME/B5

Budget deficit swells to P107.5B

From page B1

"There are no ifs, ands or buts with the deficit. We have to meet the target," Boncodin said.

But the private sector yesterday said the government would have a tough time keeping its fiscal target this year as revenue collection continued to falter.

"It is going to be a tall order because a deficit that would run away similar to the time of Estrada would not be acceptable to the private sector and to the foreign community," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club. In year 2000, the deficit reached P136.1 billion against a target of P62.5 billion.

From January to May, revenues of P223.84 billion were 2.57 percent short of the target while spending of P331.38 billion was 15 more than the target.

However, Camacho pointed out that the Bureau of Internal Revenue showed signs of improvement in May as collections reached P30.89 billion or 8.61 percent better than the same period in 2001. But the Bureau of Customs' contribution of P7.7 billion in May was 16.85 percent lower compared to last year.

During the five-month period, the BIR brought in P159.99 billion or 71.89 percent of the first half target, while Customs contributed P36.78 billion or 68.72 percent of the target.

Keeping its consistent performance, the Bureau of Treasury delivered P12.65 billion or 128.17 percent of the first-half target while collections from fees and charges also brought in 14.42 billion or 82.21 percent of the six-month goal.

"We plan to achieve our 2002 deficit target by revenue enhancement programs and expenditure control measures. We will meet the target," Camacho insisted.

The finance secretary admitted that the financial markets have already discounted the fiscal slippage during the five-month period as spreads on the government's foreign borrowings recently widened, an indication of declining investor confidence.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, July 3, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	94,900
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	100	90	90	800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	45.5	45.5	1,321,200
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	30.5	30.5	268,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.56	360,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	32	32.5	537,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	1,700
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	14	14	10,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	903,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1050	1030	1030	650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.5	57,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.7	0.67	0.68	11,670,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	550	550	520	520	20,250
Islam Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,500,000
Isim Communications Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.03	2,100,000
Philat	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	2,890,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	370	372.5	357.5	357.5	178,890
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	17,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.75	20.75	20.25	20.25	19,900
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	538,100
Petron Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.7	3,026,000
Saloon Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	99,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	70,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.36	2.36	1,361,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	175,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	82,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	1,330,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	72,500
RFM Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	4,063,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	31,800
San Miguel Corp. B	54.5	54.5	53.5	53.5	216,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.2	1,016,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.26	2.28	23,901,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	30,000
Bengpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	8,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Ebscom Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	3,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	20.75	20.75	20	20	224,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	800,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.5	1.5	640,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.7	0.7	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	5,700,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	40,000
Matro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	5,380,000
Musico Corp.	0.2	0.23	0.19	0.21	690,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
Unicell Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	300,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	600,000
Wise Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	5,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	1,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	7,500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	4,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.18	0.18	0.14	0.14	110,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,640,000
Fairmont Holdings, Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
Lelure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	210,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	23.75	24	609,400
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	61,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.4	11,749,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	500,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	2,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	4,400,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.26	2.32	5,269,000
Highlands Prime Lelure	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	110,000
Fit-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.85	0.82	0.85	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.6	5.7	6,785,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	230,000
Lapanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	450,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Ornico Corporation	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	56,000,000
Philix Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Philix Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	104,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Pacific	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	90,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	6,807,850				173,364,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	204,991,340				998,875,370.00
PRO	31,333,000				116,289,030.00
Mining	58,580,000				476,500.00
OIL	133,090,000				425,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	434,902,190				1,269,431,250.00
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	446.62				DOWN 27.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,596.75				DOWN 47.54
PRO	509.18				DOWN 20.57
Mining	1,198.80				DOWN 20.84
OIL	1.25				DOWN 0.05
All Shares Index	688.70				DOWN 16.49
Composite	1,141.55				DOWN 48.56
NO. OF ADVANCES: 6; NO. OF DECLINES: 65; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 2,082					

CURRENCIES

July 03, 2002				
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US\$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.013993	1.000000	50.5700
Japan	Yen	0.008467	0.008350	0.4223
United Kingdom	Pound	1.559521	1.538000	77.7767
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130001	0.128207	6.4834
Switzerland	Franc	0.681722	0.672314	33.9989
Canada	Dollar	0.664783	0.655609	33.1541
Singapore	Dollar	0.573526	0.565611	28.6029
Australia	Dollar	0.570621	0.562746	28.4581
Bahrain	Dinar	2.689780	2.652661	134.1451
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270398	0.266667	13.4854
Brunei	Dollar	0.571747	0.563857	28.5142
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000114	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024433	0.024096	1.2185
UAE	Dirham	0.276082	0.272272	13.7688
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000840	0.0425
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.986200	49.8721
Brazil	Real	0.351349	0.346500	17.5225
Denmark	Kroner	0.134393	0.132538	6.7024
India	Rupee	0.020791	0.020504	1.0369
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266876	0.263193	13.3097
Mexico	New Peso	0.101755	0.100351	5.0748
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494921	0.488091	24.6828
Norway	Kroner	0.135898	0.134023	6.7775
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016914	0.016681	0.8436
South Africa	Rand	0.100669	0.099280	5.0206
Sweden	Kroner	0.110990	0.108777	5.5009
Syria	Pound	0.018727	0.019455	0.9838
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030368	0.029949	1.5145
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000759	0.000749	0.0379

UOB owners settle row; Singaporean to take over

By Elena R. Torrijos

UNITED Overseas Bank Ltd., the largest private bank in Singapore, will buy out its Filipino partners in local unit United Overseas Bank Philippines in an agreement that involves the total settlement of all claims, suits and countersuits for more than P1 billion.

The settlement, to be signed very soon, is expected to enhance the stability of UOBP given the strong financial support that the Singaporean owners would be able to better provide without being hampered by any ownership dispute.

The group led by fastfood king Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee and the family and business associates of former finance secretary Edgardo Espiritu had erstwhile been engaged in a legal battle over control of the small commercial bank.

The Espiritu/Tan groups had filed in May a case with a trial court to regain control of UOBP unless UOB of

Singapore settled the remainder of P1.4 billion in bank receivables it promised as payment for acquiring majority stake in UOBP, formerly Westmont Bank, in 1999.

"Basic terms of the settlement have been agreed on subject to the execution of a definitive agreement," a person familiar with the matter said.

The lump sum payment covers the following:

- UOB Singapore's purchase of the Espiritu/Tan groups' 171 million shares in UOBP equivalent to a 33-percent stake;

- Settlement of the balance of the P1.4 billion supposedly owed to the Espiritu group for paving the way for UOB Singapore's entry, and

- Settlement of all claims of a few former Westmont/UOBP officials against.

Also as part of the agreement, UOB Singapore will release Tan from an investor agreement to pump in P1.6 billion into UOBP. In line with this, UOB Singapore will drop

the arbitration case filed against Tan in Australia for not fulfilling his obligation under the agreement.

UOB Singapore will also ensure that UOBP condones some loans connected with the previous shareholders.

For their part, the Espiritu and Tan groups, along with other former Westmont Bank officials, will drop all pending cases against UOB Singapore/UOBP.

Once the defini-

tive agreement is signed, UOB Singapore will effectively control 100 percent of UOBP including the 7-percent owned by Manta Ray Holdings controlled by an individual associated with the Singaporean group.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance reportedly pressured the Singaporeans to work out a settlement with the Filipino partners to preserve the health of the bank.

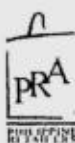
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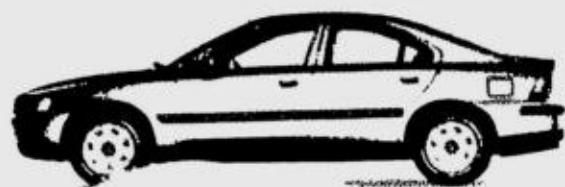
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THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2002

PLDT chief sees higher 2nd-quarter earnings

By Doris C. Dumlaog

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel Pangilinan pledged yesterday to continue churning out strong earnings for the telecommunications giant to defeat a hostile takeover mounted by tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

In an interview at the sidelines of the Asian Forum on Corporate Responsibility, Pangilinan said there were signs that second-quarter earnings were higher

than in the year-ago period.

"In terms of our results, it's going to be quite good in the second quarter compared to last year because of mobile (operations), and I think there has been some improvement as well in the fixed-line (side)," Pangilinan told reporters.

PLDT posted a net income of P1.3 billion in the first quarter this year, a jump of about 107 percent from P628.9 million in the year-ago period.

Pangilinan said PLDT was working on addressing its liabilities,

which had been a cause of concern among its investors.

PLDT is saddled with about \$3 billion in debts, of which about some \$1.3 billion were maturing in the next two years.

The company has already raised refinancing for half of its maturing debts through a recent bond float and several bilateral loans, while a portion will be rescheduled.

Asked whether PLDT was anywhere near a debt restructuring deal, Pangilinan replied: "We hope so. That's our goal."

Pangilinan declined to comment on the battle in PLDT that has set the management against the firm's major shareholder, Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

First Pacific, the investment arm of Indonesia's Salim family, signed an agreement last month with the Gokongweis to set up a joint venture that would take over First Pacific's interest in PLDT and a stake in Bonifacio Land Corp.

"We continue to run the business," Pangilinan told reporters on the sidelines of a seminar

when asked about latest developments.

Both the Pangilinan-led management and First Pacific have held separate talks with PLDT shareholder NTT Communications, the long-distance unit of top Japanese telecoms carrier Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Co., to woo the Japanese firm's support.

However, NTT president Norio Wada told Reuters last Monday the company was yet to take a decision on which side to sup-

port.

He also denied press reports that NTT would sell its 15-percent stake in PLDT.

NTT Communications holds veto power over the deal by First Pacific to sell its 24.47-percent stake in PLDT.

"I don't want to comment on NTT," Pangilinan said.

He said PLDT was not distracted from its operations by the planned takeover by the Gokongweis. **With a report from Reuters**

Palay harvest seen slightly higher despite El Niño

By Christine A. Gaylican

PALAY harvest in the first nine months of the year will slightly be higher than a year ago's output despite the onset of a dry spell linked to the El Niño weather phenomenon, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday.

In a news statement, Montemayor expressed optimism palay production would reach 8 million metric tons in the January-September period, up from 7.97 million metric tons during the same period last year.

He added that the El Niño, which was causing rivers to dry up

and farms to turn unproductive, would also hit corn production.

Corn output between January and September this year would likely remain at 3.57 million metric tons, he said.

Montemayor said palay harvest in Luzon would likely be lower, especially in the second and third quarters, due to the prevailing dry weather condition and lack of rainfall.

Palay harvest in the Visayas and Mindanao, however, would offset the cutbacks in Luzon.

"Farmers in the Visayas and Mindanao are expected to harvest more palay due to early planting of the crop during the main cropping

season, early completion of rehabilitated irrigation facilities in their areas and because some farmers in northern Mindanao have signified their intention to plant rice in marshy areas," Montemayor said.

He added: "Looking on a more positive note, we will still be able to increase our palay output in the first three quarters of 2002, but overall growth will be tempered due to El Niño," he said.

The Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said palay harvest in the first six months of the year probably grew 0.8 percent to 5.61 million metric tons due to robust growth in the first quarter, which saw output rising 8.7 percent to

3.06 million metric tons.

Production rose largely because areas where rice had been planted expanded 5.7 percent to 985,000 hectares in the January-March period, as irrigation facilities, especially in central and southern Philippines, had been rehabilitated on schedule.

He said, however, that gains in the first half of the year would likely be negated by a projected 0.5-percent output drop in the third quarter as the devastating impact of the El Niño was forecast to cut palay yield to 2.96 metric tons per hectare between July and September this year from its year-ago level of 3.08 metric tons per hectare.

SEC holds talks on Asean cross-border listing deals

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission plans to enter into cross-border listing agreements with governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, according to SEC Chair Lilia Bautista.

In a news briefing yesterday, Bautista said the SEC would discuss with other regulators in the region ways to harmonize their rules to allow a cross-border or automatic listing framework.

Bautista said she had discussed the matter with Philippine Stock Exchange chair

Vivian Yuchengco and urged the PSE official to look into cross listing between or among PSE and other exchanges.

"The problem is investors don't have enough (listed firms) to choose from (in which to invest). Our market is so thin, so there should be more listed companies. Since we can't encourage our domestic companies to list, we should encourage the foreign companies to list through the automatic listing," Bautista said. **Elena R. Torrijos**

Breaktime

From page B2

Glorietta wanted to avoid the need for legislation. You know the reason why.

Before Congress, particularly the Senate, considering its mess, can even act on any piece of legislation on anything, we will all probably get older than Imelda Marcos.

BUT her biggest problem will be Napocor. This state-owned company, instead of moving forward with the Epira, is trying hard to step back. What's that? Back steps here?

Based on statements from its big-shots, Napocor wants to keep its monopoly in the power sector. Who said the Epira was done, precisely, to rid this country of Napocor?

Apparently to overshadow Gloriaetta, Napocor big-shots claim, rather loudly, they can lower electricity rates themselves, not Gloriaetta, by P1.38 per kilowatt-hour.

Is that so? To bring about the cut, according to the big-shots, Meralco simply must buy all its power needs from Napocor. Again, this is the monopoly talking.

Meralco used to buy all its power from Napocor. Napocor charged Meralco about 8 cents per kwh. This was higher than any wholesale rate in the whole world.

In Asia, the retail price of electricity was and is only 5 to 6 cents per kwh. That's retail. In other words, it takes into account everything, including pilferage.

Let me see if I get this right—so Napocor wants to reduce the retail rates, which we pay, by charging high wholesale rates to Meralco. Is that it?

WHO should throw his support behind PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza as DOTC secretary but this young congressman, Gilbert Teodoro, who has been highly critical of all wrongdoings in the government?

Teodoro says Larry Mendoza's appointment is a good move. I don't know how to tell him now that it remains to be seen, but I'll try my best.

The choice of Larry has met criticism mainly because he has yet to prove himself in the field. At the DOTC, Larry must set policies on transportation (i.e. open skies) and telecommunications (text message charges).

Everybody knows about the powerful groups in all the transport and telecom sectors. Can he really tackle them?

The DOTC sets the fees for all sorts of services, meaning, the job will involve billions upon billions of interests. To many in business, therefore, Larry will have done his job brilliantly if only he cleans up the DOTC of corruption. It is not easy.

RIGHT now, I think of the LTO's information technology project. Supposedly it is the largest IT project in the country. It is right in Larry's new turf.

Initially, the project covers the computerization of vehicle registration, drivers' licenses and traffic cases. Then it will move to the creation of a database of all LTO records until it develops a system of quick access to any data by anybody in the LTO.

It was awarded in 1997, about five long, long years ago, to a company called Stratcom headed by a certain Cesar Quiambao. So many extensions later, thank heavens, up to now, the project is not yet finished.

The latest I hear is Stratcom even dared to ask for another extension, meaning, now it promises to finish the whole thing by the end of the year. That will make the project behind schedule by only five years.

I can understand why Teodoro supports Larry. The ex-general has a good record as a cop. What he does with things like the Stratcom contract is an entirely different matter.

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JOSE VIDAL DE VILLA NEPUMOCENO

Lawyer and Retired RTC Executive Judge

Passed away on July 1, 2002 at the age of 62.

Loving husband to Elisa nee de Lima devoted father to Jose Apollo, Katrina and Rica, dedicated brother to Manuel, Eduardo, May, Teresita and Roberto.

Family and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the San Nicolas Chapel in Iriga City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at the Fatima Cemetery in Iriga City after the 1:00 pm Mass at the Fatima Parish Church.

"I shall pass through this world but once, any good therefore that I can do or any kindness I can show, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

LOURDES GERALDEZ-PATAG

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 2, 2002 at the age of 66.

Her beloved husband Nap; children and children-in-law Cherie and Chris, Nino, Gabby and Dindin & Riqui; grandchildren Micah Joy, Joshua (†), Rangee and Iela; brother Bobong; sister-in-law Baby; nieces and nephew Binggay and Ed, Beber and Jerry (children Tisha, Mica and Juno), Bobby and Aimee (children Kyle and Vince); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from July 3, 2002 to July 7, 2002.

Her body will lie in state at GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on July 4, 2002 for Memorial Services and will be back at La Funeraria Paz on the same day.

Holy Masses will be celebrated daily.

Interment will be on July 7, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the Holy Mass at 8:30 a.m.

"Daddy, your presence will be deeply missed,
but the memories of your love & goodness
will live with us and remain in hearts forever..."

CATALINO FAUSTO RENDON

Former Director III, PVAO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 2, 2002
at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife LOURDES; children SONIA & SAM, SALUD & CARY, FE & ALAN, LANDO & RUBY, LITO & EMILY; grandchildren CARLO, CLARICE, GERARD, CHRIS, MICHELLE, MICHAEL, NATHANIEL, MARK, CAMILLE, PAOLO, NICO & JAMES; brothers & sisters POTENCIANO, MARIANO, LOLITA, LUIS, JR., PROTACIO, RODRIGO, LIWANAG, ERNESTO and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

TEODORO CHIU SUN

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness
of the Lord on the 2nd of July 2002 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife Emiliana; sons and daughters-in-law Teofilo and Dorothy, Thomas and Shirley, Peter and Stella, Philip and Leah; grandchildren Gigi, Martin, Melissa, Justin, Nicole, Audrey, Patrick, Sarah, Benny, Shannen, Nathan and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, July 6, 2002 at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Interment follows immediately at The Thousand Buddha Temple, Inc. No. 15 Don Pepe St. cor. Ma. Clara St., (Behind Sto. Domingo Church, Q.C.)

I am the
way, the
truth and
the life. No
one comes
to the
Father
except
through Me.
John 14:6

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

FELIX SOLIS RICASA

who passed away on June 26, 2002

wish to express our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled with us, offered Masses, prayers and novenas, sent flowers and material help, and for the good friends and relatives who kept vigil with us in our time of loss.

ENG'R. MONICO GALANG ALBANO

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 3, 2002 at the age of 77.

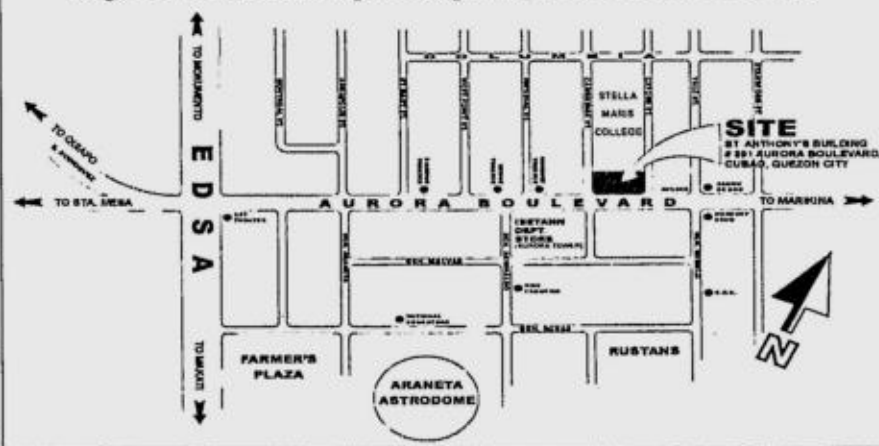
His family request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 6, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park.

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STEEP TARIFF BARRIER

RP seen losing access to Taiwan cement market

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) yesterday said the Taiwanese government's plan to impose as much as 104.48-percent duty on Philippine cement would effectively shut down the access of local cement and clinker to Taiwan.

In a statement, Philcemcor said the punitive dumping duties were "the steepest barrier imposed on any commodity from the Philip-

pinas that we are aware of."

The Taiwanese government is poised to impose an anti-dumping duty on cement and clinker from the Philippines and South Korea. Products from the Philippines would be slapped additional duties of 42 percent to 104.48 percent and those from South Korea would be levied between 110.99 percent and 126.81 percent. The duties would be in effect for five years.

Philcemcor claimed that the

anti-dumping duty was not justified considering that cement from the Philippines accounted for only 4 percent of the Taiwanese market.

Philcemcor said the punitive duties demonstrated the Taiwan government's plan to protect its country from the region's excess capacity in cement.

While Taiwan is keeping out imports from its market, Philcemcor said Taiwanese cement makers were lobbying to

open up the Philippine market to their cement exports.

Philcemcor said that had it not obtained an injunction from the Court of Appeals mandating the preservation of the status quo (and maintenance of the provisional duty of P20.60 per bag on cement imports), imports would have flooded the market anew. The provisional duty has whittled down the market share of imports from 32 percent in July last year

to 4 percent this year.

The Manila Economic and Cultural Office had earlier threatened to bring the issue of the harsh duties on Philippine cement imposed by Taiwan Ministry of Finance to the dispute settlement framework of the World Trade Organization.

Basilio said that while Taiwan's cement industry had indeed floundered, the downturn was not caused by imports from

the Philippines and South Korea but by other factors.

Basilio said Taiwan's economy, including the construction sector, had been contracting during the past years which led to a steep drop in cement prices. With demand ebbing, Basilio said the Taiwan cement players were faced with overcapacity (due to the construction of new plants in Taiwan's east) and were forced to close plants and lay off workers.

Council seeks amendments to anti-dirty money law

By Elena R. Torrijos and Clarissa S. Batino

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council decided on Tuesday to propose to Congress amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act and to the bank secrecy provision of the General Banking Act.

The move was aimed at meeting the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) preconditions to the Philippines' removal from its watchlist of countries deemed uncooperative in the global fight against money laundering. The list was released on June 22 after the group's plenary meeting.

FATF, the international watchdog against money laundering, has asked the Philippines to amend its anti-money laundering law, specifically to reduce its threshold trigger to P500,000 from the current level of P4 million. Republic Act No. 9116, or the Anti-Money Laundering Act, sets at P4 million or roughly \$80,000 the threshold for an account to be considered suspicious and therefore, should be reported to the Anti-Money Laundering Council. A source said FATF felt the threshold was too high and that it could prevent the effective implementation of the law.

"We agreed to discuss these (the proposals) to the (congressional) oversight committee and propose to them amendments to the AMLA and to the bank secrecy provision (of the General Banking Act)," Secu-

rities and Exchange Commission Chair and Anti-Money Laundering Council member Lilia Bautista said yesterday.

Bautista said the council agreed to propose the reduction of the threshold to P500,000. The council, she added, was also studying the powers of regulators to look into suspicious bank accounts. At present, regulators can only look into such accounts if there are court orders.

Bautista and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura led a team to France earlier this month to convince FATF that the Anti-Money Laundering Act, enacted in end-September last year, was sufficient to meet FATF's requirements.

FATF also wants the anti-dirty money law to be applied retroactively so that money laundering activities before Oct. 17 2001 can be covered by the law.

The Paris-based task force wants Congress to amend the law as soon as possible. Sources said FATF might revive the economic sanctions that its members imposed on Philippine transactions if the country's lawmakers would not make the amendments a priority.

FATF members imposed economic sanctions on the Philippines from June to September 2001 for its failure to enact an anti-money laundering law. The sanctions subjected the country's international transactions to more rigorous and difficult process. This resulted in delays even the dollar remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED INPUTS

DTI policy pushing CBU exports hit

EVEN before it has finished overhauling the Motor Vehicle Development Program, the Department of Trade and Industry is already getting brickbats from local assemblers who criticized the agency's erroneous policy of pushing exports of completely built up (CBU) units.

A top executive of a leading Japanese assembler said he was surprised to discover that the DTI reforms would make the export of CBUs the main goal in the latest revision of the MVDP. Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II had said the planned MVDP reforms were geared toward creating a second or third CBU exporter after Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc., which has been shipping out the Ford Lynx to Thailand.

The executive said generating CBU exports would be a realistic goal if the country's vehicle production has high

local value-added. Unfortunately, the executive said the CBUs that the country would export would have very minimal local content.

He said the DTI should realize that CBUs have very minimal local value-added compared to automotive parts. He said there was no point in jacking up CBU exports if the country was merely used as an assembly point as all raw materials were imported from other countries.

The executive said the CBU export goal would be a step back for the industry since the original MVDP in the 1970s was geared towards building the Filipino car. This dream was abandoned as unrealistic in the 1990s after authorities focused on developing a vibrant automotive parts making industry.

Another official of a Japanese assembler took note of the DTI's drum beating of Ford's CBU exports which he said

could mislead the public into believing that the country has already advanced into the full production of vehicles.

Industry data showed that Ford's CBU exports reached only \$60 million last year which was just a fraction of the \$1.1 billion worth of automotive parts shipped out by the Japanese assemblers last year, of which \$250 million was accounted for by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.

The official questioned the DTI's obsession with CBU exports when the country has been doing great strides with its current strategy of promoting automotive parts exports through local content requirements and tariff protection.

The DTI is set to abolish these incentives for local automotive protection next year after it wilted under the threat of trade sanctions from the US government (upon the prodding of Ford). **Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

Moody's changes PLDT's outlook to negative

LONDON—Moody's Investors Service has changed Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s (PLDT) outlook to negative from stable.

At the same time, Moody's affirmed PLDT's senior unsecured rating of Ba3 and its preferred stock rating of B2.

The outlook change has been caused by delays in finalizing PLDT's near-term refinancing initiatives,

which may impact on its ability to cover debt maturing in the next 12 months. PLDT intends to retire over half of its debt maturing in 2003 from free cash flows, while relying on new financing to cover part of the balance.

Moody's notes that PLDT's planned increase in free cash flow represents a significant improvement on the past and is subject to favorable market

conditions continuing with a material reduction in capex. There is a heightened degree of refinancing risk given delays in finalizing a financing deal and the reliance on improved cash flows. The rating outlook is, accordingly, revised to negative from stable.

PLDT is the principal supplier of telecommunications services in the Philippines.

Petron starts exporting to China

By Doris C. Dumlaog

PETRON Corp., the country's largest oil refiner, is exporting fuel oil to Mainland China to compensate for the reduction in its domestic sales.

Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara told reporters at the sidelines of the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility that the company was increasingly looking at the overseas market to offset the decline in the fuel oil consumption of state-owned National Power Corp.

"To make up for some sales lost, we are exporting fuel oil to China," Alcantara said noting, however, that China was the only overseas market that it could tap for now.

Napocor has been shifting to other cheaper energy sources such as coal, steam and natural gas.

Alcantara also said that Petron and the major oil companies here, Caltex Philippines and Pilipinas Shell, might have to spend as much as \$10 million to scale down the operations of their oil depots in Pandacan.

The amount is way below the \$40 million that would be needed in building a new depot to replace the Pandacan terminal. The Manila City government had sought the closure of the Pandacan depots on security concerns, triggered particularly by the terrorist attacks in the United States in September last year. The oil terminals are located in a highly populated area and are just across from Malacañang.

Recently, the local government had agreed on a compromise that would allow the depots to remain on condition that their capacity would be reduced substantially.

RP coffee industry gets big boost

THE INFLUENTIAL Makati Business Club is spearheading a new program that will address the shortfall in coffee production as against demand and to eventually put the Philippines back on the global map as a key coffee exporter.

MBC executive director Guillermo Luz told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the Asian Forum for corporate social responsibility that part of the private sector's commitment to address rising unemployment was to boost the sluggish Philippine coffee industry by improving yield and expanding the market base.

Luz said a private sector-led National Coffee Board was recently set up to address about 22,000 tons in yearly production shortfall in the next two years.

He estimated that local demand had already hit 55,000 tons while production stood at only 35,000 tons. Areas planted to coffee declined from about 100,000 hectares in 1986 to only the current 78,000 hectares.

A P300-million credit facility was obtained

from state-owned Quedan Corp. to help small coffee farmers, or those occupying up to only two hectares of land, to improve their yield through fertilization, clearing and pruning of farmlands. The immediate goal, he said, was to improve the yield per hectare from a low of half a ton to 1.5 tons.

Under the program, the board will aggressively market a local coffee brand known as Cape Isla.

Luz said the MBC had already enlisted the support of various private sector groups, including the country's four biggest branded food producers and key coffee importers—Nestle Philippines, Commonwealth Foods Corp., General Milling Corp. and Universal Robina Corp. as well as foreign gourmet coffee retailers Starbucks and Seattle's Best.

Starbucks is now carrying its own local coffee blend, Vinta, while Seattle's Best has committed to ask its US head office for permission to sell some local products, Luz noted. **Doris C. Dumlaog**

Perez denies backing Meralco

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. yesterday said he was not backing Manila Electric Co. in its row with the National Power Corp.

"My statement to review the operations of Napocor was not intended to support Meralco's call for shutting down Napocor's plants but was part of an overall effort to optimize the operational mix of the country's power generation capacity," Perez said.

"The real issue between Napocor and Meralco is the sanctity of the 3,600-MW power supply contract that they entered into in 1995 which Meralco is trying to cancel before its expiration in 2004. The optimization of Napocor's plants is a separate issue from Meralco's obligation to honor its contractual obligations," the energy chief pointed out.

Meralco vice president and treasurer Rafael Andrada claimed in a press statement that Perez in a presentation to the Makati Business Club last week "virtually upheld Meralco's

position against Napocor" on shutting down power plants that were not being fully utilized to reduce over capacity in the system.

Andrada further asserted that Perez's policy statement was "practically a vindication of Meralco's call for Napocor to shut-down its plant."

Meralco has been blaming Napocor's transmission capacity limit for their alleged failure to use more power from their Lopez owned independent power producers.

"It is unfortunate that Meralco's Andrada continue a media campaign against Napocor and is now using parts of my speech to advance their media objectives. It will be more productive if the two utilities, Napocor and Meralco, resolve the over capacity issue in the negotiating table," Perez stressed.

Earlier, Perez issued a strong warning to both Meralco and Napocor officials to stop trading allegations against each other in public.

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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawag

What to do when headlights blind you

By Tessa R. Salazar

ASIDE from temporary blindness, glare from the headlights of oncoming vehicles can induce fatigue, sleepiness and drowsiness. Drivers, therefore, must be capable of handling such situations especially during long driving stretches. You just can't look at glares head-on all night long.

Split-second blindness caused by glaring high beams and light reflections from stainless-steel bodies are being blamed by Philippine law enforcers as part of the reason for "mystery crashes" and head-on collisions. These crashes are considered mysterious because the drivers were already dead, and dead drivers tell no tales.

Glare from headlights

Information sent by the National Safety Council of the United States to the INQUIRER via e-mail showed almost 200 complaints about glare from headlights. The three most common complaints received recently by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Agency (NHTSA) were on the glare created by the higher-mounted headlamps, glare from high-intensity discharge headlamps (HIDs), and glare from extra headlamps as well as upper beams.

Another issue being tackled is the headlamp "misaim," which increases as a vehicle ages. Misaim will cause not only glare but also loss of seeing distance. In March 1997, the NHTSA implemented a rule to reduce the number of vehicles with misaimed headlamps. Headlamps must be checked every now and then. Competent technicians can adjust misaimed headlamps. This writer had her misaimed headlamps corrected on a five-year-old van, and it has improved her night-driving vision.

Automobile Association of the Philippines consultant Chito Planas said that misaimed headlights could be adjusted in automotive dealerships using the light focusing analyzer. Wrongly focused headlights lessen illumination or send blinding beams to oncoming motorists.

In the Philippines, the problem of misaimed headlamps is compounded by the conversion of right-hand-drive trucks or buses to left-hand drive.

The beam pattern of a left-hand-drive vehicle's light is designed to slope upward at the right beam, at the right side of the road, in order to illuminate all road signs and pedestrians, including stalled vehicles on the shoulder. The left beam is designed to slope down in order to prevent oncoming motorists from being blinded by a high beam. In countries that use right-hand driving, the opposite is followed—the beam slopes upward on the left while the right slopes down on the right.

Perfect recipe

A number of repositioned trucks in the country still retain the RHD beam pattern that has prevented many truck drivers from seeing parked vehicles on their right, while at the same time the high left beam has blinded drivers on the opposite direction. It would be a perfect recipe for a head-on collision.

Thus, whenever RHD trucks must be converted, the headlights need to be adjusted because the standard pattern slope created by the beam—called "Z" lights—also have to be repositioned.

Other vehicles with defective headlights are passenger jeepneys that constantly use bright beams, since these have no device to vary the intensity of their headlights.

Article IV, Sec. 34 (c) of Republic Act 4136, or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code is clear on this. "All motor vehicles shall be equipped with devices for varying the intensity of light, and the driver must dim the headings or tilt the beams downward whenever the vehicle is being operated on well-lighted streets within the limits of cities, municipalities and thickly populated barrios or districts, or whenever such vehicle meets another vehicle on any public highway."

Mounting complaints from Filipino motorists who have experienced temporary blindness on the road started several years ago. The outcry was relayed through Land Transportation Office telephones and through radio. Traffic safety division chief Daisy Jacobo said the LTO may not have the records proving accidents were, indeed, caused by blinding lights and shiny body finishes. "But we don't have to wait for fatal and severe accidents to happen," she said.

The country's accident reporting system, however, does not in-

dicade defective headlight as one of the factors for accidents. More data and more empirical evidence are needed before any conclusion is made, said Jacobo.

According to Jacobo, the accident reporting system's job, therefore, is to pinpoint the specific cause and not just the general cause. For example, a closer investigation of a tire blow-up accident may yield the result that the vehicle was also overloaded.

Look to the right

The traffic safety division's advice to drivers who encounter bright headlights: "Look toward the right."

Planas said drivers could avoid the glare of blinding headlights by avoiding eye contact with them in the first place. If the oncoming motorist ignores you even after you give a blinking signal, just avoid the light by positioning your sight to your rightmost lane.

Try not to look directly at the light, and slow down. Do not re-

taliat by putting your lights on full beam, otherwise not one of you will be able to see well. Another direction you can look is up. Adjust your head upward to the tinted part of your windshield so the light won't hit your eyes.

Always remember that the distance you can see ahead is limited when driving at night. Clean the windshield inside and out. Also clean all lights since a 50 to 90 percent loss of headlight efficiency is due to road grime. Increase the vehicle intervals.

Headlight alignment, speed

Properly aligned low beam hits the roadway 100 to 150 feet ahead. It illuminates the area 300 to 500 feet ahead. The maximum safe speed is 60 to 67.5 kph (40 to 45 mph), based on the ability to stop within a lighted area.

On the other hand, properly aligned high beam hits the roadway 350 to 500 feet ahead. It lights the area 500 to 1,800 feet ahead. The maximum safe speed using high beams is 97.5 to 105

kph (65 to 70 mph), based on the ability to stop within a lighted area.

Normal training programs do not provide night-driving conditions. Instructors are recommended to provide as much practice as possible during hours of darkness. They need to caution the new driver of risks associated with night driving. It is recommended that the instructors identify areas where visibility is limited and show the driver how to adjust to this problem.

Glare from oncoming vehicles, and then moving from well lit to dark roadways when driving will force the driver's eyes to make adjustments. Instructors, and even passengers, are encouraged to help drivers make adjustments in driving. If there are visibility problems, ask the driver to increase the space between the car and the vehicle in front. Continue to adjust speed based on the conditions experienced.

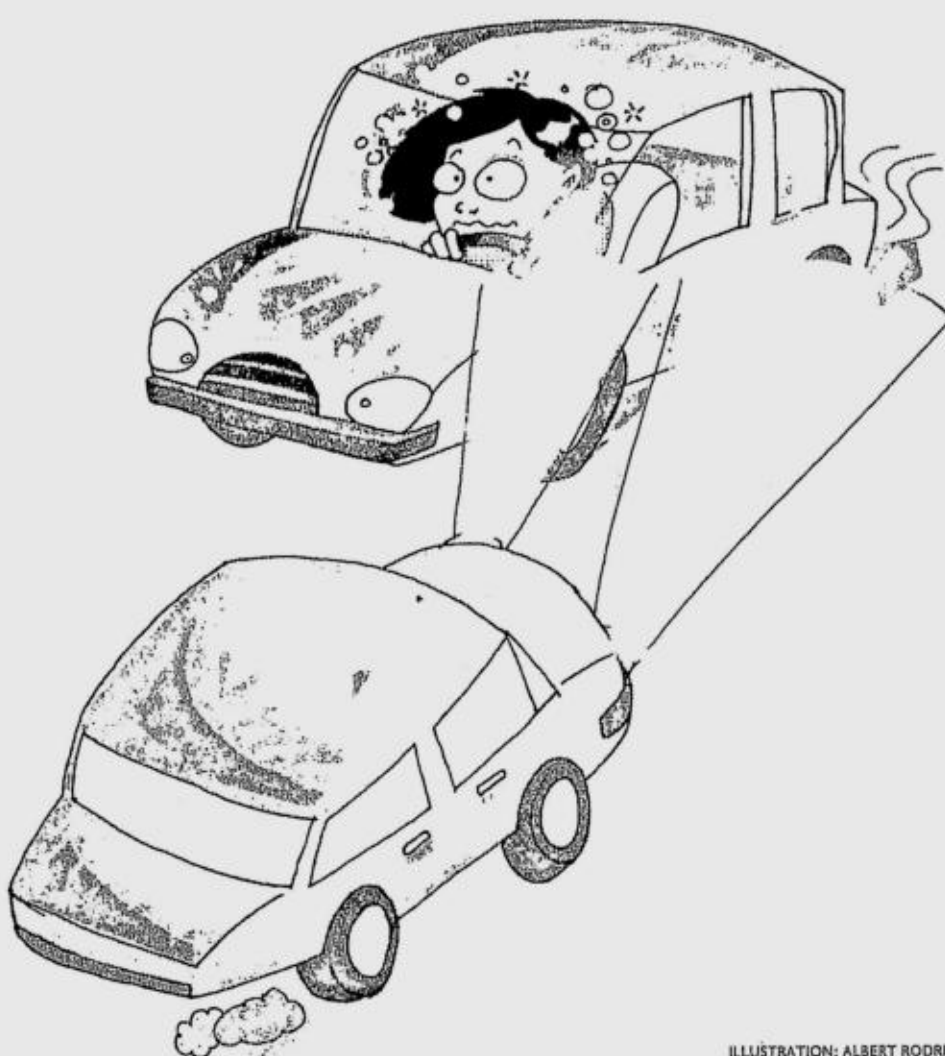


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Challenge of enforcement

Enforcement remains a challenge. There is currently a standing order on deputized agents to apprehend motor vehicles with defective lights in accordance with Republic Act 4136.

"We want consistent and uniform enforcement because of the rise in accidents at night," Jacobo told the INQUIRER that even leaders of transportation associations are in favor of increasing the penalty for defective and glaring lights, because many of the associations' members have witnessed accidents caused by these lights.

Jacobco also advised carmakers to encourage consumers to buy their headlights from reputable manufacturers. Be wary of sub-standard headlights. The market is now flooded with cheap products that are not necessarily up to quality standard, she warned.

Kerosene beginnings

During the infancy of the automobile at the turn of the 20th century, vehicles were fitted with kerosene lamps to illuminate the way at night. Within 10 years, automakers began to use electric headlamps.

In 1914, members of the Society of Automotive Engineers who were involved in the design and specifications of motor vehicle lighting began to express their first concerns about the glare produced by these headlamps. From that time on, lighting and optical engineers and scientists have sought various ways to reduce glare and improve the roadway illumination. Hundreds of variations of headlamps and unique technologies have been implemented since then.

Nearly a hundred years later, glare still presents itself as a problem. It can come in small—from cars or motorcycles—or big packages—buses and trucks. Glare does not discriminate. It can come from the haphazardly assembled lamps of dilapidated vehicles or from the inappropriate fog lamps of luxury vehicles. Glare can happen in heavily populated urban areas or in isolated country roads.

The next few years may bring about technologies, such as a GPS navigation unit fitted into headlights to enable the car to adjust to external conditions and other headlights. But until then, we may just have to slow down and look the other way when the problem glares at us, right in our eyes.

Toyota's 'hidden wealth' unearthed again

YOU will know a real good leader when he is responsive. I mean, when either a journalist or a reader calls the attention of either a public servant or a top official of a private entity to an issue that needs immediate action, the response should be quick.

Unfortunately, you can count with your fingers those who respond with dispatch.

Jojo Binay and Ben Abalos, two former MMDA chairmen, weren't that quick to respond when they are called to make a stand on an issue raised by either a journalist or a reader. At times, Binay responded here. Thank you. Abalos? Not once. Maybe, because we are golf buddies that's why he never took me seriously when he was still MMDA boss? I'm fine, Apo Ben. But now that you're the Comelec boss, I hope you change your ways a bit.

It seems Bayani Fernando, Abalos' successor, is also like that. I raised a question here last week about trees having to be cut because, according to newspaper reports, Fernando sees "the trees as traffic obstructions."

Sadly, no answer yet from the "Man from Marikina."

Toyota, the runaway winner once more in total vehicles sold for the last five months of the year, has come up with a new version of the Camry. The Camry is Toyota's "hidden wealth." The car's wealth of features is almost beyond compare in its class. Let's allow Nobuharu Tabata, president of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., to do the talking. Below are excerpts of his speech during the launch of the all-new Camry on Monday, July 1.

"Tonight marks another milestone as we launch Toyota's flagship model, the all-new Toyota Camry. We shall witness the product of Toyota's passion for excellence as the new Camry redefines the limits of luxury, style and performance in a luxury sedan. A new standard by which all other cars are bound to be measured.

"But before we proceed, we would like to share with you Toyota's performance for the first five months of the year. We are proud to announce that not only does Toyota remain as the undisputed leader in the market, but we can once again hold claim to the title of Triple Crown Leader in

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

the Philippine automotive industry. Leader in Passenger Cars, Commercial Vehicles, and Total Vehicle Sales. This is especially significant for us as this has been our ultimate goal since we last achieved this feat in 1996. We thank all Toyota customers for awarding us their trust.

"The launch of the new Corolla Altis last year was our first big step to recapture leadership of the passenger car market. As the sales figures have shown, it was a resounding success. With the introduction of the all-new Camry tonight, we are taking that extra step to strengthen this leadership.

"The Camry has a rich history as it reaped numerous awards worldwide. In the American market alone, it has received countless recognition including 'Best Family Sedan' awarded by Consumer Reports in 1997, rated as one of the 'Best Buys' by Consumers Digest in 1998, the 'Best Passenger Car in Initial Quality' by J.D. Power in 1999, and the 'Best Family Car' by Consumer Reports in Year 2000. It is no surprise therefore that the Camry has been the best selling vehicle in the USA.

"America's favorite car just got better as it evolved into a sleeker and more luxurious driving machine. Its stronger and bolder styling, larger interior space that offers new levels of comfort and luxury, will fascinate even those with exceptional taste. All these plus the new VVT-I engines that provide excellent performance, and the multitude of high-technology safety features will surely make the New Camry a benchmark for world-class luxury sedans.

"I am very pleased to inform you that the new Camry has been a runaway success in the markets where it has been recently launched.

"In the US, it has outsold its major rivals. For the Asian market, the Camry exterior has been fine-tuned to evoke a more luxuri-

ous design. In Taiwan, it currently outsells its nearest competitor by almost 2 to 1. In Thailand, it has also outsold its competitor, at a higher margin.

"And, as aptly put in our print ads, the Camry will surely make other followers. "Mabuhay po kayong lahat!"

The top-of-the-line Camry 2.4V A/T is priced at P1,550,000 and the 2.0G A/T P1,370,000. The 2.0E A/T comes at P1,250,000.

All Camry variants will also be covered by Toyota's new three-month/P100,000 kilometers warranty coverage.

The new Camry is on display in all authorized Toyota showrooms nationwide starting on July 3.

Hyundai Motor Co. was also a winner in the just-concluded World Cup. South Korea, home of the Hyundai, co-hosted the world's No. 1 sporting event with Japan.

Hyundai was a big winner because it was a major partner of the FIFA's World Cup, with Brazil beating Germany, 2-0, in the final to win its fifth title—the most by any in the 72-year history of the sport. Before Sunday's victory scored through Ronaldo's 2-goal output, Brazil's four titles was already a record.

Filipinos associate Hyundai with the best-selling Starex, the luxurious family van. Hyundai's Starex has become a big hit here that's why the establishment of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (HARI) was a boon not only to Starex owners but to the entire automotive industry as well. HARI does not only sell Starex and other Hyundai vehicles but also services all Starex vans almost nationwide.

The rainy season is here. With it comes the irritating potholes again. Will the MMDA and the DPWH please sign a pact to keep in check these yearly irritants found in our city roads, in cooperation with the Metro Manila mayors? Again, Chairman Fernando, it's your call. Can we hear your plans on this, sir?

QUOTE ME. It pays to have your headlights on when driving in the rain.



Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 4 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

I usually see these values in car's brochures: 118 ps at 6,000 rpm. What does ps mean? I'm used to the US standard of using bhp for brake horsepower. How do I convert ps values to bhp?

—Jeremy V. Salazar

FIRST of all, bhp and ps are slightly different animals. Bhp or brake horsepower is a calculation where the engine horsepower is measured with no load from a chassis or any accessories attached to the engine whatsoever. It's also called gross horsepower. PS, on the other hand, is a measurement of net horsepower. It's horsepower calculated with the engine installed in the vehicle, complete with accessories and ductwork. So you can't really convert one measurement to the other with a simple formula.

However, just to give you a better idea on what "ps" stands for, we can talk a little more about horsepower. Just as there are different ways of measuring temperature, as in Centigrade or Fahrenheit, you can measure the power of your engine in several ways, too.

Horsepower is simply your engine's ability to move mass over a certain amount of time. If you want to be technical about it: one horsepower can lift 33,000 pounds up one foot in one minute. And that's the measure of horsepower you're familiar with, the one used in the United States, and it's the standard set by the Society of Automobile Engineers, which is why it's also called SAE horsepower. The ps you're asking about is short for the German word *Pferdestärke*, the term for metric horsepower, also known as DIN horsepower. DIN is short for Deutsche Industrie Normen which simply translates to "German industrial standard."

So, in summary, hp is the US standard for horsepower, while ps is the standard in continental Europe.

If you want to dazzle your friends, you can say that one horsepower is equal to 1.0139 ps, making SAE horsepower roughly 98.6 percent of the metric DIN measurement.

PORSCHE CAYENNE

Not your regular sport-ute

By Charles E. Buban

A PORSCHE sport utility vehicle? Well, why not? This year, Porsche prepares to stake its claim in the crossover SUV market, launching Cayenne (pronounced ki-ann, meaning "spice" in various languages) to the car industry's most competitive segment. It would seem odd (and quite late) for Porsche to enter this segment, not with its long tradition of making legendary sports cars. However, the German manufacturer decided that an SUV would be a perfect complement to its fleet that includes the Boxster and the new 911 Turbo.

So while the Porsche Cayenne will not attract attention much like if you park with a Boxster, it will definitely turn heads at the supermarket, company parking lot, or camping trip pit stop. SUV or not, it's still got the heart of a Porsche.

Porsche Cayenne will certainly appeal to a number of enthusiasts who need more room than what the 911, the Carrera or the Boxster can provide. The Cayenne will come in two models—the Cayenne Turbo and the more subdued Cayenne S. The more sophisticated Turbo version will have a 4.5-liter, twin turbo-charged V-8 engine with 450 horsepower and 457 lb-ft of torque. The S model will have the same engine concept, only with 340 hp and 310 lb-ft of torque.

Both the Turbo and the S models will have a towing capacity of 3,500 kilograms (7,716 pounds) which by the way, is more than enough muscle to pull up a couple of cars. To distinguish itself from the S, the Turbo model gets visual cues like additional front air inlets, "power domes" on the hood, and four exhaust tailpipes.

SUV with racing heritage

Of course, just because the Cayenne is technically an SUV doesn't mean it's going to be a unexciting vehicle. In fact, Porsche has transferred some of its racing heritage to this SUV—the Cayenne Turbo is rated to accelerate from 0 to 100 kph in just 5.6 seconds with a top speed of 266 kph. The other model is no fluke either, as the S model will rocket to 100 kph in 7.2 seconds topping the speed of 242 kph.

This vehicle is designed to be a "true Porsche," able to provide the kind of performance that no other vehicle in the segment can match, and is thus intended to be used primarily on the pavement, shuttling up to five occupants simultaneously.



WITH ITS FAMILIAR headlamps and air inlet, it's definitely a Porsche. Although the Cayenne is not the usual sports car image whose poster you usually hang on your wall, this SUV still carries the racing tradition Porsche has been known for.

Both versions will introduce new features like the Porsche Traction Management permanent four-wheel-drive system, a pneumatic suspension system with a self-leveling feature and six adjustable ride height positions, and Porsche Active Suspension Management, which is an electronically variable damping system that stabilizes body sway during sudden gas or brake pedal applications or when driving on rough terrain. These systems work together to ensure that the Cayenne offers an optimum blend of outstanding on-pavement and off-pavement driving qualities.

The PTM permanent four-wheel-drive system is standard on both Cayenne models. This feature feeds 62 percent of the engine power to the rear wheels and 38 percent to the front wheels in the basic mode. A multiple-plate clutch operated by an electric motor and controlled electronically is able to vary the distribution of power according to specific driving conditions, whenever necessary feeding up to 100 percent of the engine torque either to the front or the rear.

Porsche Stability Management on the other hand, maintains a constant dialogue with PTM but only intervenes when the vehicle reaches its physical limit. This feature coordinates essential systems such as the anti-lock brake system, the automatic slip regulation and the automatic brake differential. The PSM is immediately activated whenever the Cayenne enters critical over- or understeer conditions, "telling" PTM to open the differential locks to restabilize the car by applying the brakes specifically on individual wheels.

Adjusting ground clearance

Probably what makes Porsche Cayenne a very stable SUV is its pneumatic suspension that ensures maximum driving pleasure and active safety by automatically adjust-



THE INTERIOR shows the Porsche sporting heritage, blending organic curves with sturdy metallic elements for a robust appearance appropriate to this new type of Porsche.

ing Cayenne ground clearance relative to increasing road speed and condition. This feature gives the SUV extra ground clearance on rough terrain or extra low ground clearance when the Cayenne speeds up on the road. Much more, the Cayenne's pneumatic suspension gives a consistent position of the SUV regardless of the load.

Incorporating six different ride height levels, the pneumatic suspension adjusts over a range of 116 mm (4.57 inches). The Cayenne's normal ground clearance is 217 mm (8.54 inches). When standing at idle, the Cayenne moves down to 60 mm (2.26 inches) from the standard height to facilitate easy loading or unloading. Once the vehicle starts moving and speeds up to about 125 kph, the pneumatic suspension moves to regular low setting which is 27 mm (1.06 inches) below the standard height. At speeds exceeding 210 kph, the Cayenne automatically moves further down to its extra-low ride level, which is 11 mm (0.43 inches) below the "regular" low setting.

But once the Cayenne hits the

rough roads, the SUV switches to its special off-pavement level—raising the SUV to 26 mm (1.02 inches) over the standard height and up to the most extreme 30 mm (1.18 inches) or a ground clearance of 273 mm (10.75 inches). At this extra-high level, the Cayenne limits its maximum speed to 30 kph.

Likely buyers

Indeed, Porsche has put its name and reputation behind its first venture in SUV manufacture. Although it would take some time before most Porsche fanatics would take Cayenne seriously, a closer look would surely make those mega rich out there lining up to inquire about this SUV.

Incidentally, Porsche will produce approximately 25,000 Cayennes this year, 70 percent of which will be for export. Although PGA Cars Inc. (Porsche's sole importer and distributor here) hasn't set a price for both models yet, you can assure yourself that it'll be out of your range unless you own a few extra homes or an SUV, a limousine or sedan and a sports car.

Another look at Ford

TODAY being Independence Day in America, it's time to take another look at Ford Motor Co., which projects the image of Uncle Sam in marketing Ford cars and trucks here in the Philippines.

Recent actions of Ford appear to indicate that America's second largest automaker has finally taken a new attitude toward its quality control and safety problems. Last Thursday, Ford safety engineering vice president Susan Cischke announced Ford is forming a technical task force to improve the crashworthiness of a Ford rear-wheel-drive sedan.

The announcement was made after the Arizona Attorney General asked Ford chair Bill Ford to recall hundreds of thousands of police and civilian Crown Victorias across the US to fortify their fuel tanks with extra protection because they tend to leak and catch fire after high-speed, rear-end collisions. Three fire-related deaths of Arizona police officers driving "Crown Vics" were blamed on the fuel tank's location behind the rear axle, which puts it within the vehicle's "crumple zone" in a rear-end collision. The fuel tank location is common to the "civilian" Crown Vic and all Lincoln Town Cars and Mercury Grand Marquis built between 1992 and 2001.

Investigation showed that the fuel tank is vulnerable to punctures by a parking cable bolt, an anti-sway bar bracket and on later models, towers that support rear shock absorbers. Cischke said that Ford's technical task force will include outside experts from the military, racing and aviation industry to immediately begin testing Crown Vics to which fuel tank bladders, shielding and trunk packs have been added.

Earlier last month, Ford had disagreed with the Attorney General and claimed that the Crown Vics passed its own 50-MPH rear-end crash tests. Around half a million Crown Vic police cars were sold over the past 20 years, making it one of Ford's most profitable cars.

Ford also showed new willingness to address safety problems last month when it announced the voluntary recall of 16,500 2002 model Thunderbirds to modify the driver's seatbelt, which was found to be partially cut after the vehicle was subjected to a 35 MPH frontal impact test into a solid barrier as part of the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program. Although it has not received any customer complaints regarding the occurrence of the problem, Ford voluntarily sent letters to customers with instructions on when to take their cars to dealerships for a no-charge modification.

Another newly launched Ford car, the popular Focus subcompact, has been subjected to numerous recalls since its release late in 1999 as a 2000 model. Six NHTSA investigations were begun into the

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



Focus this year alone, setting a record in the US. The latest probe came after 72 people complained to the NHTSA that the Focus stalled while they were driving, including seven who crashed. Seven other people reported the front suspension control arm fractured while they were driving, leading to six crashes.

The investigation into engine stall involves 547,700 cars from the 2000 and 2001 model years while the suspension probe also includes the 2002 model year. Two other still-open investigations involve the Focus' possible airbag malfunction and others were prompted by reports the rear wheel bearings could fail and the engine could catch fire. The Focus has already been recalled eight times in the US for problems ranging from faulty seat latches and windscreen wipers to a throttle that can stick open.

European-built versions of the Focus have also been recalled. Per a UK consumer website, recalls and technical service bulletins issued to dealers included faulty electronic control modules, incorrect suspension bolt torque, front suspension, door latch, tail-light and automatic transmission problems.

The Escape/Maverick compact SUV was another new Ford model requiring rectification early in its life as was the current Explorer SUV that was affected by assembly-line-inflicted tire damage and broken tailgate glass.

Founder Henry Ford's great-grandson William "Bill" Clay Ford Jr., who replaced Jacques Nasser as Ford's CEO last October, has conceded that the company needs to refocus on getting its manufacturing system and quality in order. Bill Ford has put in place a turnaround plan after Ford lost \$5.45 billion in 2001, axed 35,000 employees and reported an \$800 million first-quarter net loss last April. Nonetheless, Ford expects to break even by the end of this year. And while the Crown Victoria, Thunderbird, Focus, Escape and Explorer are not sold locally (though the Lincoln Town Car and Explorer Sport Trac are), Ford's apparent efforts to get its quality control in order in the US should filter down to its global operations, including the Philippines. (With reports from AP, Reuters, AFP, The New York Times and Just-Auto)

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Honk if parts fall off.

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

Volvo turns 75, sets anniversary offer

FOR MORE than seven decades, Volvo has ruled the road and the home. Through Nordic ingenuity and a tenacious effort to achieve unrivaled safety and quality, it has become one of the most trusted automobile brands in the world. Now on its 75th year in the automotive industry, Volvo celebrates with a bang through its anniversary offers.

On its 75th year, Viking Cars Inc. (the authorized dealer of Volvo cars in the Philippines) has prepared anniversary price packages on the stylish, compact S40 sedan. Aside from various exemplary safety and convenience features common to Volvo, all models come

in elegant leather seats with integrated GSM phones as standard for the S60 series.

These exceptionally designed products are now made available at low, easy and flexible interest payment terms or at 0 percent interest, 18-month payment terms on the 2.0-liter Volvo S60 sports sedan. With simple and affordable payment schemes, owning a Volvo has never been easier. For just as Volvo celebrates its growth and endurance, it celebrates the consumer as well.

Find out more about Volvo's anniversary offer at the Volvo showroom at 2272 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

Hyundai Autonet, Motorola arrange symphony in car

AUSTIN, Texas—Building on a successful relationship in telecommunications between Hyundai Autonet and Motorola, Hyundai Autonet has selected Motorola as its premier partner for digital entertainment and Bluetooth hands-free solutions.

The combination of Motorola's and Hyundai Autonet's strengths is expected to lead to a cost-effective integration of capability-tiered Bluetooth hands-free solutions, making these features affordable in nearly every car. As a leading Asian supplier of automotive electronics, Hyundai Autonet has the knowledge and flexibility to efficiently integrate infotainment with these hands-free solutions. Motorola, a major force behind innovative wireless commu-

nications solutions, also brings the knowledge and capabilities of the No. 1 automotive semiconductor supplier.

Audio devices

Combining its most powerful audio processing architecture, specialized peripherals, software technologies and development tools, Motorola has developed the Symphony family of audio devices. These digital audio and related next-generation solutions can be expected to set a new standard for vehicle digital entertainment applications. Based on results measured in early prototype development, consumers can anticipate a significant improvement compared to existing solutions.

This most recent collaboration

between Hyundai Autonet and Motorola springs from a history of successful cooperation. For example, during the past year, the two companies have worked together on four technical projects. Motorola provided support and expertise for the development of entertainment products and Bluetooth automotive wireless applications, as well as Driver Information Systems. Plans are underway for cooperation in other leading technologies.

Automotive applications

"Motorola is the world's No. 1 supplier of semiconductors for automotive applications. By harnessing its legacy in RF technologies and market-leading cellular and Bluetooth expertise into automotive embedded solutions,

Motorola has made itself the partner of choice for creating intelligent automobiles for today and tomorrow," said J. J. Yoon, president of Hyundai Autonet.

The demand for this type of product is expected to surge over the next couple of years. Motorola and Hyundai Autonet teams are collaborating to demonstrate the fruits of their endeavor as early as the fourth quarter of 2002, with pilot production in 2003 and full production by 2004. "To satisfy the relentless demand of today's drivers for smart wireless communications and seamless infotainment, you need core competencies as well as smart ideas," said Scott Anderson, general manager of Motorola's Transportation and Standard Products Group.

ATI Racing rules Drag Wars

VETERAN race team ATI Racing proved to be too much for the competition as it swept both the Quick 8 and Pro Class B categories of the 4th leg of the Vortex Drag Wars at the Manila Harbor Center recently.

On board an EG Civic hatchback, Ryan Lee of ATI Racing blasted competitors with a record setting 12.9 second time slip at the track. Powered by a potent B16 turbo-intercooled DOHC engine, Lee's car successfully squared off with a Chevrolet Nova V-8 driven by Bradlee Lim.

The race also paved the way for the maiden run of ATI Racing's project car, a white EG Civic hatchback powered by an all-motor B-18 DOHC engine.

"The car's time is 13.1 seconds. It can still go to low 11's if we lighten the body. We ran with a rally-car setup. The car needs more work," said Dondi Montecillo of ATI Racing.

Montecillo almost won the Quick 8, but lost due to a mix-shift on the final run.

In the other classes, Pro Class C was won hands down by Mark Tin of Team MSF Autoworks. Second place went to Jojo Quermit of Bagspeed. Pro Class D was a toss between Carlo Tayco and Jeff Escueta of Team Autoshape Performance.

Drag Wars is organized by Roadwise and is sponsored by Caltex, ATI Diesel, ZF, Eibach, Sherwin Williams Paint, Nodolos, Karcher, Goma King and Fremuff.

Suzuki Shogun passes road challenge

A YEAR ago since its launch on May 23, the Shogun stands tall in the market and on the road. It has been for a year now taking real-life tests of all kinds of road conditions—from the wacky streets of Manila to the many different terrains in provinces across the country. Indeed the Shogun, a 110cc four-stroke motorcycle, has been leaving up to what its name stands for: general of a great army in Japanese society.

True to what has been said during its grand launch last year at the Westin Philippine Plaza, this dignified toughie has been built to conquer the roads of the metropolis and the many road variants in the provinces—from macadam roads to rugged hilly terrains to barren rice paddies. It has to be tough, as tough as the name behind it: Suzuki. It also has to be as dignified as Suzuki could get, what with 70 years this year in the manufacture of four-stroke and two-stroke motorcycles for a discriminating set of clientele. Suzuki Philippines Inc. president Kiyoshi Kawahara is right to be so proud of this machine whose aerodynamic quality

enables it to conquer great distances and speed demands of countryside travel, not to mention its sleek dimension which enables it to snake its way through the worst of metro traffic.

Suzuki Shogun hit the whole stretch of Manila-Bondoc and Manila-Leyte in June last year in the much-hyped-about test drive where it emerged victorious in all tests of roadworthiness. Today, after a year of real-life great-distances test, Suzuki Shogun boasts of its star marks under every imaginable road condition and driver fancy.

The motorbike aficionados actually have two choices for the Suzuki Shogun: the FD 110X that is equipped with drum brake and the FD 110XS with disc brake. Both proven to be high on road leadership factor with the typical Shogun twin-dome combustion chamber that ensures high performance with less fuel consumption (75 kilometers per liter), advanced lubrication cooling system and a superior sporty muffler for almost inaudible engine sound.

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Oldest Beetle, Popemobile featured in Motorshow

By Jug Alano

THE COUNTRY'S oldest running Volkswagen Beetle, along with the Popemobile that Pope John Paul II used during his last visit to the Philippines in 1995, will be among the rare vehicles to be displayed during the 13th season of Motorshow International (Philippines) slated at the posh World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 2 to 6.

The Volkswagen Beetle, a pop and culture icon during the 1950s and 1960s, remains a popular car up to now, and local owners have even formed a Volkswagen club. After more than 40 years, many of these cars are still on the road, proof of the Beetle's enduring love affair with Filipino car buffs.

Oldest Beetle

Marissa Nallana, Motorshow's director-general, said that as part of this year's Motorshow, they will be featuring the "Volkswagen Evolution" where the organizers will showcase Volkswagens from the oldest vintage, 1951, up to the latest model.

The 1951 Volkswagen, Nallana said, is now being restored. It is an original unit with the split-type window, color white, standard Beetle.

Also to be displayed is a 1952 model, currently the oldest-running Beetle in the Philippines.

Papal vehicle

The Popemobile, on the other hand, was made by a local assembler in 1995 for the papal visit. The vehicle is bulletproof.

Aside from these rare vehicles, Motorshow, now on its 13th season, will also bring back its Best in Show competitions, where the flashiest and most beautiful cars compete against each other in various categories. Vintage and current models are entered in the competition. Motorshow 13 is likewise featuring its Static and Miniature Cars exhibit.

Early birds

This early, Nallana said many of their previous exhibitors have confirmed participation in the upcoming show, proof that Motorshow remains the country's premier auto and cycle exhibition.

Among the early birds for Motorshow 13 are Armstrong Enterprises (distributor of Toyo tires and assorted mags); Artocad Creation Enterprises (car stickers and promo items); Bizcom International Corp. (automotive spare parts, Simon Petrochemical Industries); Clorox Philippines (Prestone Brake Fluid, STP and Armor-All); Comet Cycle (tire repair products); DAV Commercial (automotive belts); European Decals (car stickers, accessories);

Goodlink Corp. (76 lubricants); Kart Plaza Manufacturing (Sparco accessories, ARAI PJ-1 Lubricants); Liftruck International (EGR auto accessories); Miles and Levels Phils. (Sun-Gard auto window film, Auto Gard products); Nodalo's Trading (mufflers and exhaust system); Silverwind Alloy Castings (tires and magwheels); Tyremart (Dunlop tires, magwheels);

US Chemical Products (40 lubricants, Turtle Wax); Yokohama Tire Philippines (tires and magwheels); Zafra Motors (automotive services, underchassis repair); Z-Speed Motor Sports Products (Blue Thunder, Quad 9.8mm four-core ignition cables).

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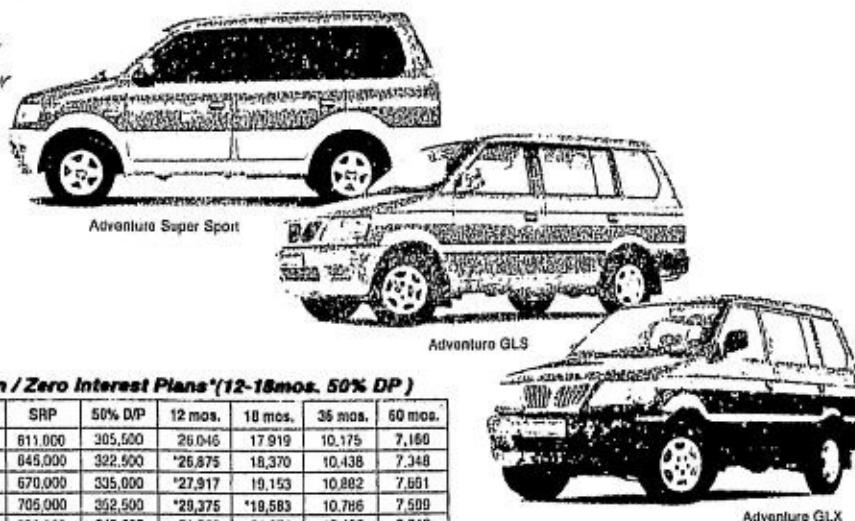
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GLX Gas MT	645,000	99,000	26,766	18,311
Diesel MT	670,000	90,000	26,704	19,052
GLS Gas MT	705,000	90,000	29,162	20,047
GLS Sport Gas MT	698,000	139,600	27,853	19,848
Sport Diesel	713,000	142,000	28,482	20,275
GLS Diesel MT	720,000	90,000	28,752	20,474
Super Sport Diesel MT	770,000	114,000	30,759	21,896
Super Sport Gas MT	750,000	115,000	29,080	21,327
Gas MT	790,000	123,000	31,558	22,404

*60mos. 50% D/P

Low Monthly Plan / Zero Interest Plans* (12-18mos. 50% D/P)

Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel MT	611,000	305,500	26,046	17,919	10,175	7,160
GLX Gas MT	645,000	322,500	26,875	18,370	10,438	7,348
Diesel MT	670,000	335,000	27,917	19,153	10,882	7,601
GLS Gas MT	705,000	352,500	29,375	19,583	10,786	7,509
GLS Sport Gas MT	698,000	349,000	31,795	21,874	12,405	8,742
Sport Diesel	713,000	356,500	32,478	22,344	12,672	8,929
GLS Diesel MT	720,000	360,000	30,000	20,000	10,951	7,704
Super Sport Diesel MT	770,000	395,000	32,083	21,389	12,318	8,671
Super Sport Gas MT	750,000	375,000	31,250	21,353	12,133	8,542
Gas MT	790,000	395,000	32,917	22,607	12,844	9,043

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"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me shall live; and whoever lives and believes in Me never die."

John 11:25 – 26

MANUEL CANCIO

"Daddy Kiddie"

peacefully joined his Creator on June 29, 2002
at the age of 92

His children: Maritess & Rolex and Donna & Michael;
and grandchildren: Joanna & Tommy
brothers: Ramon (♣) & Ricardo (♣);
sisters: Conchita (♣), Pacita & Socorro,
other relatives and friends request the pious readers to
pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday
July 6, 2002
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at
Santuario de San Antonio.

*In lieu of flowers, donations to the
Doña Juana Cancio Foundation
will be much appreciated.*

WB welcomes \$13-B boost for poor nations

WASHINGTON—The World Bank on Tuesday welcomed a deal to provide new cash of \$13 billion for projects involving 79 of the world's poorest countries, reached after months of bickering by donors on how the money should be used.

Including this new money, funds available to the bank's lowest cost financing arm, the International Development Association, will total \$23 billion over the next three years, up 18 percent over previous levels.

The agreement is "an important step forward in addressing the goals highlighted at the recent development conference in Monterrey," said Sven Sandstrom, World Bank managing director, who chaired the lengthy negotiations. The IDA "performs a critical role in balancing the responsibilities of poor countries for their own futures with support from donors and international institutions."

The agreement came just in time, as the previous three-year deal expired at the end of June.

Talks between donors were delayed by heated debate over a controversial US proposal to increase, from less than one percent to around 50 percent, the amount of money dished out by IDA in the form of grants.

The plan met with stiff opposition in Europe, and de-

layed an agreement on the increased funding by more than half a year. The donors eventually agreed that 18 to 21 percent of the financing should be given out in grants.

"This agreement reflects President (George W.) Bush's determination that our development assistance must achieve results if we really want to help poor people succeed," US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said in a statement.

The 39 donor countries also urged the bank's management to establish a results-based measurement system to link funding to a country's development progress—another initiative pushed forward by the United States.

"We insist on measuring results, we deliver grants where grants are most appropriate, and we're putting more emphasis on productivity growth in the private sector," O'Neill said.

Poor countries should be rewarded for policies promoting gender equality, education, strengthening the fight against diseases including HIV/AIDS, and improving the business climate, the donors also stipulated.

Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs John Taylor said in a conference call that results would be measured specifically on education, health and business climate. **Reuters**

Asia needs to open up markets and integrate, Germany says

TOKYO—East Asian nations must redouble efforts to integrate their economies and open up their markets if the region is to win more foreign investment, German Economics Minister Werner Mueller said on Wednesday.

Set against progress made by other regions in deepening economic ties, East Asia needs to catch up, he told a conference on prospects for German business in the Asia-Pacific region.

"A greater degree of coordination and integration is needed to increase investment inflows," Mueller said on the first day of the two-day conference, attended by some 750 executives.

The conference was opened by German President Johannes Rau,

who noted that Asia accounted for just 4.3 percent of German foreign direct investment last year and 11.5 percent of its foreign trade.

"German investment in Asia can grow and must grow," Rau said.

Mueller said German investors would definitely be interested if the Asean Free Trade Area and the Asean Investment Area succeeded in turning the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations into a seamless market of 500 million people.

"But there have already been delays because some countries have bowed to special interests," he said.

"It should come as no surprise,

then, if foreign investors show a preference for other locations," Mueller said.

The other location, par excellence, is China, which Mueller said was poised to strengthen its competitiveness and broaden its influence in the region as it pushed through reforms mandated by its accession to the World Trade Organization.

Just as Germany came under pressure to reform because of its membership of the European Union, China's ascent within the region will pressure Japan to put its house in order, he said.

He suggested that Japanese and German firms could join forces in bidding for big international contracts.

Japanese companies could draw on German know-how acquired in eastern Europe, while German firms could piggyback on the expertise Japan has gained in East Asia.

Japan remains Germany's biggest market in Asia, with exports last year of 13 billion euros (\$12.8 billion).

But China, on 12 billion euros, has almost caught up.

Heinrich von Pierer, chair of electronics and engineering giant Siemens AG, denied that German industry was concentrating on China at the expense of the rest of Asia.

Last year German exports to Vietnam jumped 55 percent, to Indonesia and the Philippines by 20 percent and to Thailand by 18 percent, he told the conference. **Reuters**

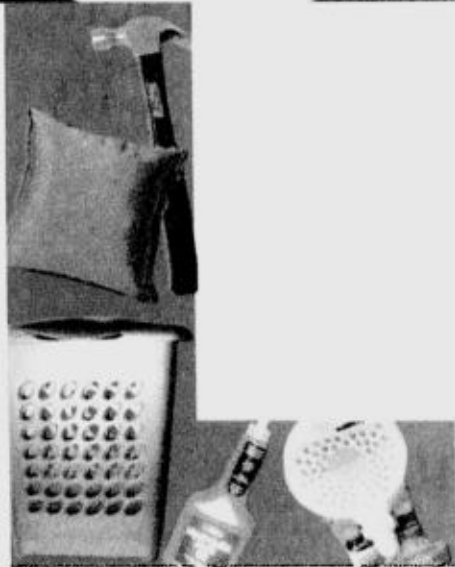


EXECUTIVES of a real estate company meet with investors in their glassed offices in Beijing. Investors are pouring large amounts of money into expensive developments in Beijing, spurred by the city's successful bid for the 2008 Olympics and the country's entry into the World Trade Organization. **AFP**

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Asian industries hit by US financial woes

TOKYO—Lingering financial troubles in the United States have cast a dark shadow over Asian manufacturers and exporters as the current crisis could signal the end of a decades-old disinflationary process, one of the world's leading financiers says.

Kenneth Courtis, vice chair of investment bankers Goldman Sachs Asia, told AFP that Japan, South Korea and other Asian exporters have been the main beneficiaries of that worldwide fight against inflation and would suffer should a new economic paradigm prevail.

Courtis, a Tokyo-based economist, pointed to the reliance of the US economic model during the 1990s on eliminating budget deficit and public debt, worldwide confidence in US firms, geopolitical stability, transparency and productivity gains derived from free trade.

"In the Bush bear market, all these conditions changed," said Courtis, referring to financial movements under President George W. Bush.

The events of Sept. 11, the resurgence of public debt, the bursting of the highly speculative dotcom bubble, protectionist measures guarding steel, timber and agricultural exports, and a series of high profile corporate scandals have changed the US economic map, he said.

"Confidence is not there any more and investors have withdrawn their money from American equities and the dollar."

The indicators of this loss of faith are easy to spot: the major rise of gold and the euro against the greenback and the steep curve of American interest rates. Despite a 73-percent cut in 12 months of short-term rates by the US Federal Reserve, long-term rates remain high.

The current lax monetary policy led by the Fed has conformed to standard practices applied since the stock market crash of 1987 and the US savings and loans crisis, Courtis said.

"Since then, each time the system is shaken, they come to the rescue with a very aggressive monetary policy, which amounts to putting off the repayments."

But, he added, "fundamental problems are not addressed, particularly overconsumption in the United States financed from abroad, mainly Japan."

The unstoppable rise in US current account deficits, moving toward 5 percent of the gross domestic product, is a major symptom of this.

The key issue is knowing if needed adjustments could be made without imposing brutal recession on the US economy. **AFP**

Japan hopes to lower bad loans by 2005

TOKYO—Japan will encourage banks to speed up disposal of non-performing loans, bringing them to "normal levels" by March 2005, to boost its economic recovery prospects, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Wednesday.

The government will take action if necessary in the foreign exchange markets by consulting the country's major partners on a recent slide in the dollar, Koizumi said.

Tokyo is "going to accelerate the disposal of bank bad loans and we will do our utmost to bring banks' non-performing loans back to normal levels by the year to March 2005," Koizumi told a plenary session at the Upper House of Parliament.

The premier has made reducing bad loans at banks a crucial element of his reform plans aimed at lifting the world's second largest economy out of a de-

cade-long slump.

On Japan's overall economic outlook, Koizumi said the economy "is bottoming out but we are still facing downside risk from problems in employment and household income so we need to continue making efforts to overcome ongoing deflation."

The government may act again in the foreign exchange market to curb a recent rise in the yen—which has gained around 10 percent against the dollar since that start of April—if the need arises, said Koizumi.

Tokyo is worried a strong yen will hurt the competitiveness of its exporters, managing Japan's export-led recovery.

"In regards to what measures may be taken to halt the dollar's decline, we have already intervened in the foreign exchange markets several times recently," the premier said. **AFP**

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banaf-Formoso

A day's sampling of dumplings

(Editor's Note: This is Doreen G. Fernandez's last column for Lifestyle. She will be dearly missed. There will be a tribute for Doreen on July 5, 2-4 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. In addition, the Ateneo de Manila University will hold a Mass of the Resurrection in memory of Doreen on July 6, 5 p.m., at the Church of the Gesu in the Loyola Heights campus. The mass will be officiated by university president Bienvenido Nebres, S.J. There will also be a special Ateneo tribute for Dr. Fernandez to be held July 12.)

THE TERM "dumpling" is of uncertain origin, and first appeared in print in the 17th century, although the object—"a small and usually globular mass of boiled or steamed dough existed long before that" (Oxford Companion to Food, 1999). The English Norfolk dumpling is the most famous in England, but there are

as well Suffolk and oatmeal dumplings; and in Bavaria, Austria and Bohemia, dumplings of stale bread as well as Nockerl (soft flour dough), Dumpfnudel ("steam noodle") and Kartoffelkloss (potato), and more.

In Asia, we have what Europeans sometimes call filled pasta, the Chinese dumpling being quite similar to ravioli. What we familiarly call siomai, however, go at least as far back as the Sung dynasty (AC 960-1279), when they were sold from stalls the way snacks are sold in modern China. This type of oriental-filled dumpling spread westwards, to become momo in Tibet, pel'meni in Russia and kreplach in Jewish cuisine. Indonesia's onde onde is a ball of glutinous rice, filled with brown sugar and rolled in grated coconut after boiling. Thailand has a sago dumpling called saku sai mooli, filled with pork, onion and groundnuts, steamed and served hot or cold.

In China, the dumplings take various forms: wonton ("a pun on the Chinese word for 'chaos,'" which we find in our pancit molo); jiaozi, which are semi-circular; tang t'uan (boiled balls of glutinous rice); yuan hsiao (sticky rice with a sweet

A DAY'S/ p.C5

IN GOOD TASTE



Doreen G. Fernandez



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ENSALADA Gaudi

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shows
there's
taste
beyond
paella

The new flavors of *Spain*

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

WHEN Sandra Got Cacho talks of her childhood years in Malaga, Spain, her mellifluous voice lingers lovingly over remembered flavors and aromas.

As she tells how her father, Jose Ramon Got, and grandmother, Dolores Machimbarena, cooked traditional Spanish paella, you can almost taste the earthy flavor of saffron and smell the pungent shitake mushrooms.

Cacho, who lived in Malaga for 20 years with her family, is a woman with an exquisite taste memory. She also owns and manages Gaudi together with Eduardo Moreno.

Located at 114 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati, Gaudi proffers dishes which are the Platonic embodiment of Spain's truest soul food.

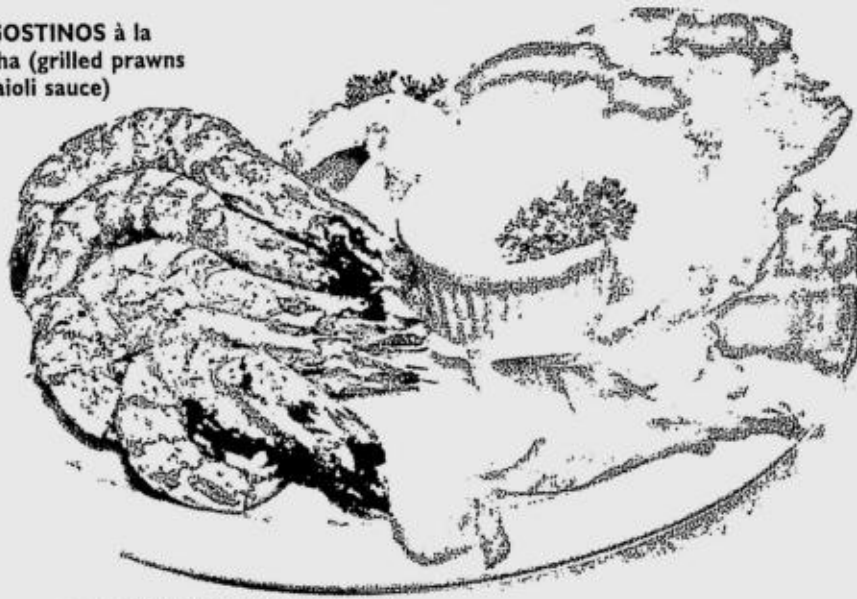
When she and her family came back to the Philippines two years ago, Cacho thought of putting up a Spanish restaurant. Her husband Francisco and sister-in-law Marilen suggested naming the restaurant after the famous Spanish architect, Antonio Gaudi. The restaurant's design and architecture were done by architect Ernesto Romero and Cacho's daughter Nicole.

"We love to tour different provinces in Spain and eat in various restaurants," says Cacho, who used to own a restaurant-bar in Spain, which served breakfast, lunch and dinner.

At Gaudi, diners are introduced to hot and cold Pintxos and contemporary Spanish cuisine as prepared and presented in and around Spain's diverse regions.

"Spain has become modern. It's not anymore the callos, gambas al ajillos and lengua. The south of Spain eats more fish. Part of Valencia is where the rice or paella is. The northern part has meat and soupy dishes. We got a bit of everything and put it on the menu,"

LANGOSTINOS à la Plancha (grilled prawns with aioli sauce)



SANDRA Got Cacho and daughter Nicole Cacho with Eduardo Moreno

Cacho says.

She also points out that even for such traditional dishes as paella, there's a myriad of interpretations, each a reflection of a particular region as well as the hand of the cook who prepares it.

But most central to Spanish cuisine, Cacho adds, is simplicity, a feature appealing to those who are put off by trendy fusion food. In the Mediterranean regions especially, where pristine produce is abundant, flavors need little coaxing, and dishes can feature simple ingredients and sauces.

Hearty meals

You begin to understand why many people swear by Gaudi when the waiter starts you off with Fabada Asturiana, a hearty bean stew typical in Asturias, or Ensalada Gaudi, tossed greens drizzled with Cacho's special dressing. Either hooks you at once.

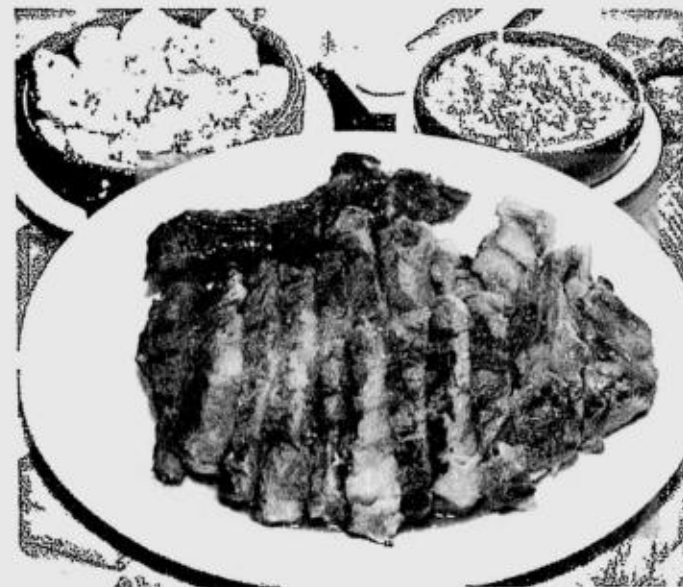
The Chuleton Villagodio sings of the essence of prime rib steak and Langostinos à la Plancha of prawns and aioli sauce.

The wonderfully fresh fish—Bacalao Ajoarriero (codfish), Bonito con Tornate (tuna), Bangus à la Espalda or Lapu-Lapu al Pil Pil—seems as if it has just been pulled from the Mediterranean Sea even when combined with other ingredients.

The restaurant also has Platos Combinados set lunch menu, which offers big flavors of its



ARROZ Crosta (crusty rice, Alicante style)



CHULETON Villagodio (grilled prime rib steak)

different dishes.

Currently, there are a hundred offerings in Gaudi's repertory, but don't ask Cacho to name her favorites. Can a mother choose among her children? Still, her voice smiles when she says that her Pintxos Calientes and Pintxos Frios are so sumptuous they're almost like desserts.

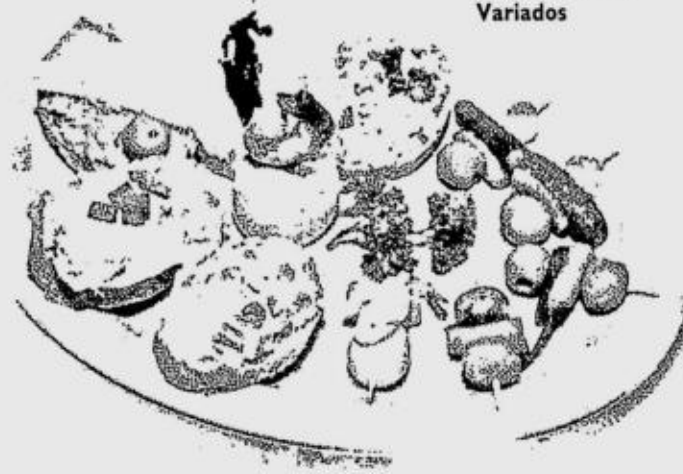
Desserts such as Profiteroles con Helado, Tocino de Cielo and Arroz con Leche may be the most delicious way to end the meal.

Gaudi's meals are complemented by Spanish wines that are big, round, thoroughly chosen and deliciously inexpensive.

Gaudi's dishes are prepared by Filipino cooks trained by a Basque chef. "Filipinos are fast learners. They make better paellas than I do now. And like me, they believe that patience, wisdom and respect for tradition are things that do not get conveyed in a recipe or business plan. They reside in a cook's hands, in her heart and soul," Cacho says.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

PLATO Pintxos Variados



PROFITEROLES con Helado (left) and Tocino del Cielo

Gourmet cooking made easy

STUDENTS at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts—in Bon Appetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 928-9296 or 633-5162)—learn "easy gourmet cooking," an oxymoron to us mere kitchen mortals.

Depending on one's interests, culinary aficionados will be taught everything from gourmet bagoong to sinful cheesecakes.

From homemakers to master chefs, the key to creating lip-smacking concoctions is to use the freshest ingredients and the most reliable kitchen implements.

Reggie Aspiras, the kitchen goddess, believes that "a happy stomach is a happy heart." Below are two recipes guaranteed to keep tummies and hearts in very high spirits.

Parsley Chicken Roast With Baked Vegetables

1 chicken
1 ½ tsp Cajun seasoning (salt, black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, nutmeg, parsley, chili powder)
1 tbsp butter, cut into small pieces

1 tbsp all-purpose flour
1/3 c broth
¼ c chopped fresh parsley
1 stalk of fried parsley and fried garlic

Rub chicken with half of the Cajun seasoning, sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Put chicken in Glad Oven Bag (flour the inside of the bag as indicated in instructions in the box) and roast until cooked through. Transfer chicken to plate, and place pan with juices (from roast chicken)



en) over burner on medium heat. Add flour; stir until golden for about 30 seconds. Whisk in broth. Bring to a boil, whisking for two minutes until mixture thickens. Add chopped parsley. Season with salt and pepper.

Baked vegetables:

2 carrots, cubed and blanched
2 potatoes, cubed and blanched
1 tomato
2 zucchinis
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp salt
Asparagus
Bell pepper

Combine ingredients in Glad Oven Bag. Bake for 15 minutes. Serve with chicken. Garnish with fried garlic and fried parsley.

Roasted Prawns with Capsicum Sauce and Spinach Potatoes

16 prawns, peeled except for tails, and butter-fried
4 tbsp olive oil
½ tsp salt
1 tsp garlic powder
½ tsp black pepper

½ tsp onion powder
½ tsp cayenne pepper
½ tsp oregano
½ tsp dried thyme

Spinach potatoes:

2 c potatoes, ½" dice
3 c water
1 c heavy cream
¼ pound fresh spinach
Salt and white pepper

Sauce:

2 tbsp butter
3 medium red bell peppers, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped

¼ c chopped onions
2 tsp minced garlic
1 tsp chopped basil
1/8 tsp cayenne
2 c chicken stock
2 tbsp heavy cream

Garnish:

6 fried spinach leaves

Preheat oven to 400°. Season the prawns with salt and pepper and drizzle with olive oil. In a hot sauté pan, sear the prawns on one side for one minute. Place the prawns inside a Glad Oven Bag and put in



side preheated oven. Roast for 6-8 minutes or until done.

For the potatoes: In a saucepot, combine the potatoes and salted water. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat. Cook potatoes until tender, about 8-10 minutes. Remove from heat and drain. Place the heavy cream in a saucepot and bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Place the spinach in a food processor and pour in the hot cream. Purée until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Place the potatoes back in the stove. Add the spinach cream and butter to the potatoes. With a potato

masher, mash the potatoes until fairly smooth. Season with salt and white pepper.

For the sauce: In a saucepan, heat the remaining olive oil. Add peppers, onions, garlic, basil, cayenne and cook for three minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the stock and cream and bring to a full boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for eight minutes. With a handheld blender, purée the sauce until smooth. Spoon the sauce in the center of the platter. Mound the potatoes in the center of the sauce. Place the prawns around the potatoes. Garnish with the fried spinach.

TASTEMAKERS

Restaurant row launch goes al fresco



SOLEIL'S Markus Gfeller, Sandra Gfeller and Honorio Pascual



JAVI Hernandez, Margarita Fores of Pepato and Louie Ysmael of Nuvo



MIRIAM Katigbak and Winnie Nazareth of Ayala Land Inc., flanked by foreign consultants from Callison Architecture (L-R): John Gish, Mark Sopp and Scott Brown

**HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO**

Robinsons Novaliches recently became the scene of "Intensity Quake" activities sponsored by URC and Baker Street. For five days, Quake Cake hosted games and gave away prizes. The lineup included games like "Quake and Shake," wherein contestants had to consume a whole cake bar, and "Shake, Rattle and Quake," where they showed their creative moves in a modified newspaper dance. Teen stars Sherwin Ordoñez and Tricia Roman played hosts and livened up the crowd with song numbers. Quake Cakes are made by URC's Baker Street and are available at all supermarkets nationwide.

THE NEW Greenbelt recently launched its restaurant row in an al fresco party. That evening, buffet tables, each representing one of the 15 new dining spots in the row, offered an eclectic mix of cuisines both local and international.

The list of restaurants and cafés is a veritable who's who of the best in dining and wining. Spanish Cuisine from Hala Mingoy's, the popular Italianni's, the wine bar Magnum, coffee delicacies at Segafredo Espresso Bar, Continental offerings from Soleil Café Moderne and Nuvo, and Japanese food at Sugi. While only these seven were open that evening, nine more will be unveiled soon. Bizu, Cena, Dozo, Gloria Maris, Masa's, Pepato, Restaurant 12, Temple Bar & Restaurant, and Uva are slated to open in the following weeks. What makes this list even more extraordinary is that they are all concepts developed by Manila restaurateurs who are already famous for their cuisines. Masa's, for example, is owned by the group behind the Libis fine dining triumph



CASA Armas Tapas Bar y Restaurante opens its third branch in Ortigas Center. The largest Casa Armas branch in the metropolis, the two-storey restaurant features high ceilings and a spacious bar. It was conceived by Señor Jesus Armas, a chef and native of Rioja, Spain, who has been serving Spanish dishes for over 42 years. The restaurant features Spanish specialties such as cochinillo, Than Long Crabs, roast chicken, paellas, tapas, chorizos, delicacies, Sangria, wines and cheese. The restaurant is located at 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati, (tel. 897-3542/ 3605) and at the G/F of The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (tel. 687-3370/ 687-3665).

New ways to cook tofu and lumpia

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Give your usual lumpia recipe a twist by learning to prepare lumpia-wrapped meals such as Lumpia à la Cubana, Shrimp and Garlic Gambas, Fish Fillet, Korean Beef and Guinatan Lumpia Dessert by enrolling in Lumpia

Lumpia class on July 6.

Put your Saturdays to good use and attend other Maya Kitchen courses: Cookies and Bars on July 6; Food to Go, Bakery and Bakeshop and Bake and Sell Snacks on July 13.

On July 20, learn Japanese Cooking and Pinoy Breads. July 27 is Catering Class.

Call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or visit Maya Kitchen on the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City.



THE FIRST franchise of Blue Bacon Café will open soon at the newest entertainment center—E-Square along Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. Its "Under the Sea" design theme will provide diners a calm and soothing atmosphere while enjoying the fine cuisine that only Blue Bacon Café can offer. In photo during the contract signing are (L to R): Sharmaine de

Jesus, director of SL Gourmet Specialists Inc., Shery Lou de Jesus, president and GM of SL Gourmet Specialists Inc., Mike Prado, president and GM of Blue Bacon Franchise Corp., Baby Prado, Blue Bacon and Green Eggs Restaurant manager, Boyd Deriquito, EVP and director of Blue Bacon and Green Eggs, and Bing Limjoco, EVP Francorp. Phils.

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JUST DESSERTS 8 July 9, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Maple Walnut Cake, Almond Butter Cake, Mocha Roll with Almond Cream Filling, Ube Pandan Cake, Pinoy Pear Apple Strudel Tuition Fee - P850
COOKIES 2 July 12, Friday, 1:30-5:00 pm Almond Fingers, Mango Bars with Streusel Topping, Caramel Tarts, Oatmeal Cookies, Lemon Bars Tuition Fee - P850
ORIENTAL KITCHEN 4 July 16, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Bibimbab (Korean Rice Topping), Celibichim (Korean Beef Stew), Chapchag (Korean Sautéed), Chai Prawns, Pandan Sago Tuition Fee - P1,000
IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS 4 (new course) July 18, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Pine Loaf, Banana Loaf, Magnolia Butter Loaf with Raisins, Ube Tartlets, Almond Tartlets Tuition Fee - P850
BACK TO BAKING BASICS 5 July 21, Sunday, 1:30-5:00 pm Apple Upside-down Cake, Vanilla Pound Cake, Poppy Seed Pound Cake, Icebox Cookies with Cornflakes, Almond Wafers Tuition Fee - P850
COCKTAILS 1 (new course) July 27, Saturday, 1:30-6:00 pm Marbled Quail Eggs with Seasoned Salt, Mini Cream Puff with Creamy Ham Filling, Chicken Liver Pate, Ukey, Skewered Beef with Dipping Sauce, Grilled Shrimp Wrapped in Bacon, Mini Quiche, Cucumber Rounds with Tuna Salad, Baked Tater tots with Cheddar Sauce, Fried Chicken Wings, "Fresh Fruit Dazzle" Tuition Fee - P1,000
PARTY FARE 1 (new course) July 30, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Boneless Chicken Rolls with Cranberry Sauce, Roast Pork with Chunky Apple Sauce, Paella de Mariscos, Chunky Macaroni Soup, Peach Tart Tuition Fee - P1,000
A LOVE AFFAIR WITH CRUSTS August 1, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Fried Empanada with Meat Filling, Pastel de Leche, Chicken Pate, Buto Pie, Quiche Tuition Fee - P1,000
BACK TO BAKING BASICS 1 August 4, Sunday, 1:30-5:00 pm Sans Rival with French Buttercream, Marble Loaf Cake, Banana Yogurt Quick Bread, Rich Butter Tarts with Caramel Filling, Jelly Roll Tuition Fee - P850

Hands-On Cake Decorating and Baking Classes

HANDS-ON BAKING 2 July 10, Friday, 10 am to 5 pm A whole day hands-on class for those who want to learn recipes that require the intricacies of the folding procedure. The class will prepare the following recipes from start to finish - Light Vanilla Cake with Marshmallow Icing and Pearls, Butter Cake with Old Fashioned Caramel Frosting and Peaches and Cream Pie. Limited to 10 students. Tuition Fee - P1,000
A CELEBRATION OF THE ROSE July 23, 24 and 25, Tuesday to Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm For the cake decorating enthusiast the rose is a perennial favorite because of its simplicity and elegance. As a fitting tribute to the queen of flowers, we offer a 3-day comprehensive course on different types of roses using exciting, edible mediums such as pumpkins, royal icing and chocolate clay. As a bonus, we will include bunching. Limited to 10 students. Tuition Fee - P2,500

Classes at Julius Maggi Kitchen

Nestle Building, Rockwell Center, Makati City

FOR THE WEEKEND COOK 1 July 4, Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Lamb Cappelletti, Binsongpanang Patis ng Baboy, Lumpyang Udon or Pinoy Cup, Salmon Head Sautéing, Fried Almond Tuition Fee - P1,000
DELICIOUSLY NO BAKE DELIGHTS 2 July 5, Saturday, 1:30 to 5:00 pm Cathedral Windows, Peaches and Cream Cheesecake, Black Forest Cheesecake, Italian Refrigerator Cake, Ube Pandan Cheesecake Tuition Fee - P850

TUITION FEE INCLUDES RECIPE HANDOUT AND INGREDIENTS. FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 721-7735, MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS, 9 AM TO 6 PM ONLY. TUTORIAL CLASSES BY APPOINTMENT.

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Good old American favorites

Café Mequeni at Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field, Pampanga, goes USA and treats you to a fantastic New Orleans dining delight. Savor seafood gumbo, jambalaya, bronzing fish, blackening steak with debris sauce, mashed potato and many more. Café Mequeni's Louisiana promotion is featured at the dinner buffet until July 6. Call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000.

DINING-OUT

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel celebrates American Independence Day at the Coffee Shop until July 7. Lunch and dinner buffets include Turkey, American Pot Roast, Chicken Fried Steak, New England Boiled Dinner, Apple Pie ala Mode. Restaurant Bocarinos presents Mediterranean cuisines like Fresh Tuna and Tomato Stew, Greek Lamb Sausages with Tomato Sauce and Moussaka on July 8-Aug.3. The hotel also presents "Oodles of Noodles" at the Lobby Lounge for the whole month of July. Call

811-6888 local 3308.

EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace presents "The Cardinal of the Seas" lobster promotion until July 15. Chinese executive sous chef Chan Yiu So prepares cold lobster salad,

live lobster sashimi, baked lobster in superior stock,

lobster congee, lobster with dried shrimps, sautéed lobster in garlic sauce, X.O. sauce, dried chili. At the Lobby Lounge, enjoy crêpes prepared just the way you like them until July 15. Available Monday to Friday, 3-8 p.m., Crêpes A La Minute offers thin pancakes filled with shrimps in dill sauce, ham and cheese sauce or mushrooms with Hollandaise sauce. Sweet crêpes come in mangoes and cream with sabayon, apples and raisins with cinnamon sabayon, or bananas and cream with butterscotch fillings. Inaho Tei presents delectable crabs with original flair until July 7. Call 633-8888 local 2738 to 2739.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko offers Japanese

ice cream at Benkay Japanese Restaurant. Japanese chef Igarashi has created four new flavors: Goma Ice Cream (black sesame flavored ice cream), Ogura Ice Cream (Japanese sweet red beans ice cream), Yuzu Sherbet (Japanese lime sherbet), and Macha Ice Cream (Japanese green tea ice cream). Call 867-3333 local 3342 to 3343.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Inagiku Japanese Restaurant offers a la carte selections of Japanese trout by chef Kimito Katagiri: Ayu, Iwana, Yamame and Niji Masu grilled in traditional fashion and served on a bed of hot river stones. Diners can avail of Inagiku's River Fish specialties for lunch and dinner. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888 local 7588 and 7599.

SHIRAZ Bistro and Wine Lounge in Legaspi Village now serves lunch specials daily from Monday to Friday. For only P250, enjoy a meal complete with soup or salad, main course, dessert and iced tea. Diners can choose from four meal choices. For vegetarians, Shiraz offers Meal

no. 1 which consists of Sopas de Ajo, Caesar Salad, Mango Crepes and Iced Tea. Pasta lovers can try Meal no. 2 which consists of Clam Chowder, Puttanesca, Mango Crêpes and Iced Tea. Those who prefer a quick bite can try Meal no. 3, which includes Potato and Leeks Soup, Club Sandwich, Mango Crêpes and Iced Tea. For a real hearty lunch, Meal no. 4 consists of Citrus Tuna Salad, Baked Pork Ribs, Mango Crêpes and Iced Tea. Shiraz is at the G/F of Palisades Building, 107 Perea St. Legaspi Village, Makati. Call 892-0758.

THE ARISTOCRAT's all-time favorites are now available in five individual servings to satisfy your cravings for a sumptuous all-Filipino rice meal: Kare-Kare, Lumpiang Shanghai, Beef Kaldereta, Chicken-Pork Adobo and Lechon Kawali. The Aristocrat's executive lunches are reasonably priced from P125 and up and are available between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jupiter, Makati branch only. Call 895-0101, 895-0725 or 899-1218 for delivery.

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

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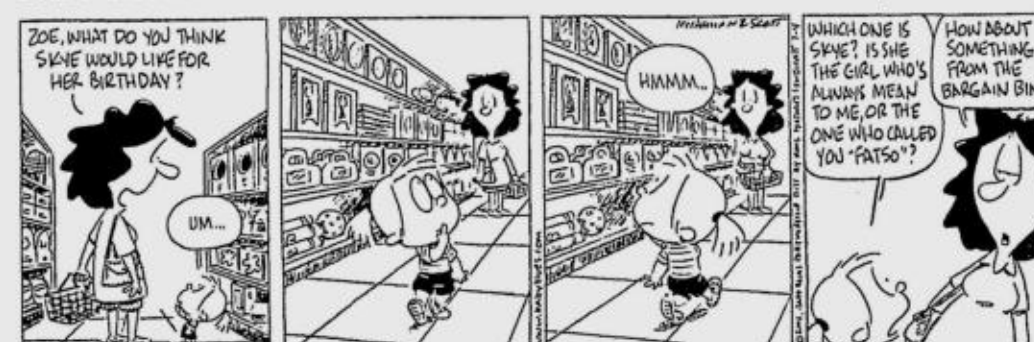


BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Geraldo Rivera, Dear Abby, Neil Simon, Louis Armstrong
Happy Birthday: You will be able to advance your career and receive recognition this year if you work hard. You will help friends and relatives accomplish their goals. You will also work toward justice in the world. Work well done will give you confidence to further your crusade. Your numbers are 10, 15, 28, 31, 45, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will discover interesting information about your past today. It may not be exactly what you wanted to hear but it will make it easier for you to understand yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotional matters may be kept secret today. Don't try to force someone to disclose information that doesn't concern you. It will put you in an awkward position.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't count on anything running smoothly today especially with work-related matters. The more you can do at home the better. Retirement investments should be looked at carefully today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be emotional today but put things in perspective and enjoy openness with the people you care most about. It's probably a good time to discuss your feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is not the time to rant and rave about what should have been done. Get busy picking up the slack and helping those less capable. New friendships or relationships will develop.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Seminars and business meetings will run smoothly if you listen to others as well as contribute your own ideas. You can influence those with less experience and end up in a leadership position.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Property investments will be fruitful, but don't be pushed into a joint financial venture with someone who is likely to let you down. You may lose something that means a lot to you if you are careless with your valuables.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel will lead to valuable knowledge that could alter your future. Plan your schedule carefully and you will get a lot more done than you anticipate. Reserved reactions to unsavory situations will pay off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is a great day to forge ahead professionally or to make headway in whatever challenge life has offered you. Take the plunge and follow your heart. If you do what's best for you, positive action will follow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Check out the courses available that will help you to develop your philosophic outlook. You can make alterations that will help you achieve a happier and healthier lifestyle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be avoiding issues that need to be dealt with. Think about what it is that makes you so unhappy and decide what to do about it. Your life is in your own hands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The interaction you have with others today will leave an impact on your life. Your sensitive nature will allow you to tune into the thoughts and feelings of others.

Birthday Baby: You will always be ready and willing to follow the most exciting and adventurous path. Your charismatic approach to life will bring you the most dedicated friends and the most vehement enemies.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Indian nursemaid
- Q-tip
- Jaded
- U2 singer
- Barrett of gossip
- All arms and legs
- Place savers
- Up and about
- Boredom
- Waits in readiness
- 1011
- River islets
- '60s campus radicals
- Bear of stars
- Popular aquarium fish
- Watch or clock
- Lebanese militia
- Biblical gardener
- Suffice
- Start to date?
- Tulips of the future
- Per-unit production
- Flattens on impact
- Percussion instrument
- ID's on jerseys
- Beams
- Major ISP
- Office flower
- Records
- Effective use
- Point-after try
- Alloy of lead and tin
- Andean country
- "Time Machine" race
- Obstacles
- New Haven campus
- Landlord's due

DOWN

- French cleric
- Earth's satellite
- Erelong
- Malarky
- Mom and Mrs.

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

7/4/02

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	P	P	T	A	P	S	P	E	T	E	R
A	L	O	E	G	E	E	I	R	E	N	E	
M	E	L	D	K	I	L	N	Z	I	N	G	
B	R	I	D	G	E	O	F	S	I	Z	E	
S	T	O	L	E	N	E	N	E	S			
E	M	I	S									
P	G	A		S	O	C	K					
R	O	C	K									
A	R	T	I	E								
T	E	E	N	S								
E	N	D										
H	I	T	E	O	F	A	S	I	L			
N	E	G	E	V								
A	R	E	N	A								
G	A	T	E	S								

49 Part of a wd. 59 "The Alexandria Quartet" book

53 Searches for 60 Banjoist

55 Los Angeles 61 Mound

56 Special phone 62 Coll. subj.

57 Hot chamber 63 Review part

58 64 Dramatic script

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

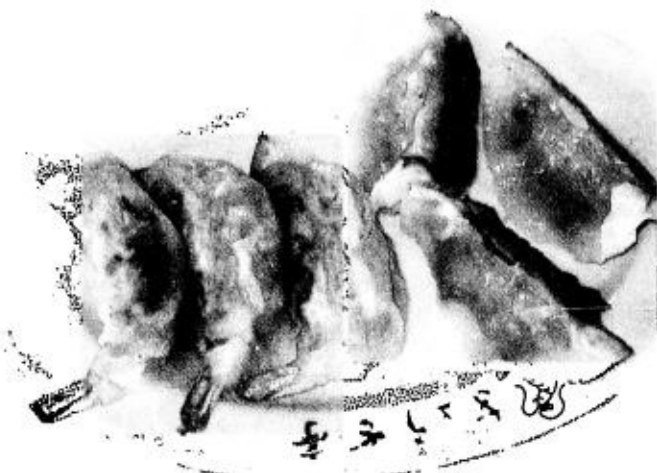
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





ORIGINAL (pork) and shrimp



GOMOKU-KATA-YAKISOBA, fried noodles with vegetables



SPINACH (left) and Long Onion gyoza

A day's sampling of dumplings

From page C1

filling); and many more, which one may encounter at breakfast, lunch, teatime and supper in Hong Kong, China and Manila. Here they may go by Chinese names (e.g. *hakau* for shrimp *siomai*), but are generally called by their chief ingredients: pork, beef, sharksfin, scallops, *kuchay*, spinach, etc.

Japanese version

Then there is *gyoza*: Japanese pan-fried dumplings adapted from China's *jiaozi*, *chiao-tzu* or *guo tei*, but so thoroughly indigenized in Japan that they are found in most restaurant menus. While Chinese dumplings are generally steamed or boiled, *gyoza* are steamed, then fried till they are brown and crisp at the bottom, while remaining soft on top.

Gyoza-itei (Unit I Morato Square Bldg., 306 T. Morato corner Scout Madrinan, QC: tel. 923-2316 loc 123) is a tiny restaurant, focused almost exclusively on *gyoza*. Only some seven months old at the time of our visit, its original 16 seats plus an extension now total 28, with small square tables. It is owned by a Japanese-Filipino partnership, and is well worth a visit.

Tony Capisonda, the genial waiter, handled the whole extension fast and efficiently, smilingly explaining each item, order sizes, likely combinations.

The most popular dumplings are, he said, the Shrimp (with ground pork, garlic and chives) and the Sharksfin (with chopped shrimp). An order of five pieces costs P235; an order of three, P150. The original *gyoza* (ground pork, garlic and chives, P75/P115) is familiar to most Filipinos; it is the one available in most restaurants, large or small. The three above deserved their top billing—very tasty, especially when dipped in the *gyoza* sauce provided (soy-plus, with drops of chili oil).

We also tried, however, Long Onion (ground pork with *kuchay*, garlic and chives), Spinach (minced pork, boiled spinach, cabbage and onions), both with vegetable greenness shining through the almost-transparent wrapper. Great. Only space limitations kept us from sampling all the others: Chili, Tuna (with cucumber), Cuttlefish (cabbage, onions, peppers), Miso (red soybean paste, cabbage and onions) and Chicken. Another time. *Hasta luego*.

Noodles, too

Ramen—Japanese noodles with a signature soup base—are available, too: Sesame, Negi Miso, Negi Shoyu, Spicy Tanmen (not a soup, mind), Soy and Tanmen (sliced pork with assorted vegetables).

Winnie lost her heart to Gomoku-Kata-Yakisoba, crisp fried noodles topped with vegetables. I felt the day's blazing sun and summer heat eased by cold *Hiyashi-Chuka*, beautifully laid out: *nori*, pork, egg strips, fish cake strips and noodles *al dente* in a cold liquid, with an optional dab of hot mustard.

For another time, a few more menu items (it is a limited but rich menu) may be tried: *Hiya-Yakko* or *Agedashi-Dofu* by way of bean cake: *Yasi Itame* (vegetables fried with pork or liver) and *Mabe-Dofu* (bean cake with chili-ground pork) as side dishes; and rice bowls

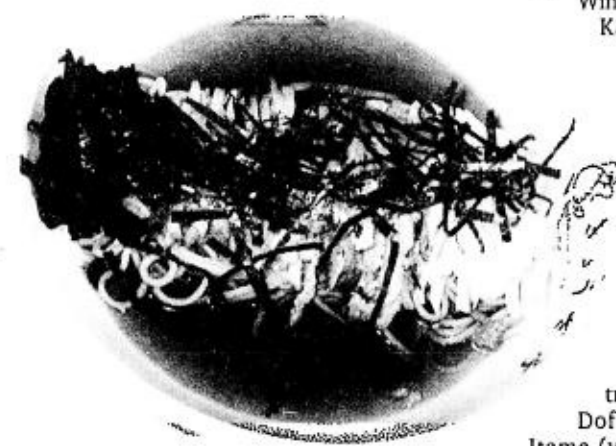
Jollibee DailySpecials



with topping, Chuka-Don (with shrimp, squid and pork), Marbu-Dofu-Don. Rice, of course, fried-stirred with *chashu*, fishcake and leeks and dubbed "Original"; fried-stirred with *chashu*, fishcake and *kimchi*, called *Kimchi*.

Have a bottomless iced tea. Take home frozen ready-to-cook *gyoza* in boxes of ten. But, more likely, return for the rest of the small, manageable but star-studded menu. Real pleasure on a summer's day.

'Gyoza' are steamed then fried till they are brown and crisp at the bottom, while remaining soft on top



HIYASHI-CHUKA, cold noodles

Make your own favorite pizza

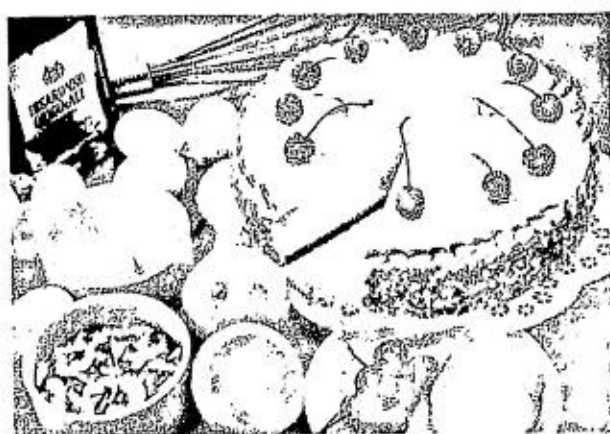
GREENWICH shares with pizza lovers its basic procedure in making pizza. Of course, one can experiment with preferred seasoning and spices.

Some people simply love their pizzas fresh from the Greenwich counter and consumed in the outlet, but those who want to know the procedure for Primo Pizza can make their own version.

1. Buy a good pizza dough.
2. Brush dough with olive oil.
3. Choose a good tomato paste, season with choice of spices and herbs, and spread evenly from the center of the pizza dough to the outer edge, leaving about a centimeter of crust.
4. Add a generous amount of grated mozzarella.
5. Add sautéed sliced onions.
6. Lay out Italian sausage and pepperoni, making sure that they are well distributed on the pizza.



7. Add slices of premium cooked ham.
8. Evenly spread sliced button mushrooms on top of the other toppings.
9. Add bacon pieces and green bell pepper cut into small squares.
10. Add more mozzarella cheese.
11. Bake until golden brown.



MAXIMS Pastry Shop of the Manila Midtown Hotel offers a freshly baked Amaretto Cream Cake, an Italian inspired cake with a distinctive taste of Amaretto Liqueur. Enjoy it per slice or more at the Manila Midtown Hotel located on Pedro Gil corner Adriatico St. Ermita, Manila or call 526-7001 loc 6561.



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July 9, 11, 13, 18, and 20, at the Julius Maggi Kitchen, Ground Floor, Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. All classes are scheduled from 2 to 4 PM. For reservations, please call 726-9232 or 726-1016.



Specials of the Month

Dorothy Ferreria
July 4 • The Weekend Cook
July 6 • Delightfully No-Bake
For reservations and inquiries, please call 721 7735.

Henry Sison
July 19 • Special Course on Cookies
July 26 • Cakes with Distinction
July 27 • Soft Pretzels
For reservations and inquiries, please call 726 5316.

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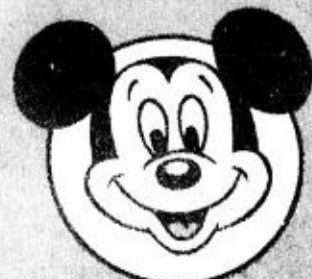
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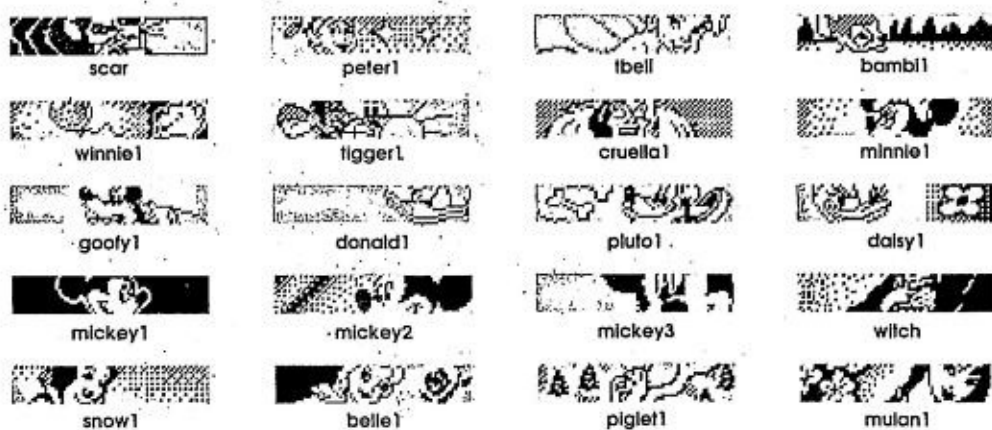
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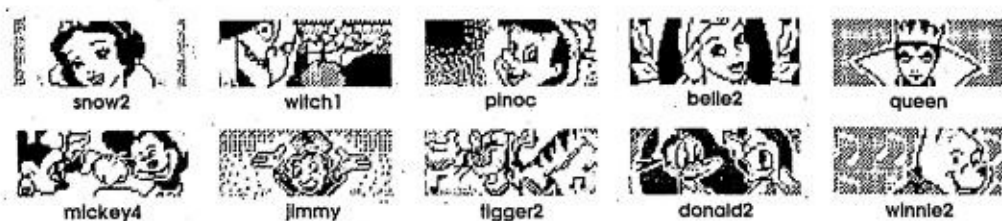
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2. Send to 2941



text cards

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2. Send to 2941



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KEYWORD

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Bibbidi
Chim
Colors
Cruella
Friike
Godist
Hakuna
Smworld
Mickey
Minnie
Adream
Supercall
Tigger
Winnie
Ucanfly
Inmyhrt
Zipadee

TITLE

A Whole New World
Be Our Guest
Beauty and the Beast
Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo (The Magic Song)
Chim Chim Cher-ee
Colors of the Wind
Cruella De Vil
Friend Like Me
Go The Distance
Hakuna Matata
It's a Small World
Mickey Mouse March
Minnie's Yoo Hoo
Once Upon a Dream
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
The Wonderful Thing about Tiggers
Winnie the Pooh
You Can Fly! You Can Fly!
You'll Be in My Heart
Zip-a-dee-doo-dah

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